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Summit challenges Netanyahu's balancing act

ANALYSIS

Political turmoil awaits Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu regardless of whether he takes a tough or a pliant stance at Wye Plantation.

"He is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't," one of his senior aides quipped.

Netanyahu is being pulled in different directions by opposing forces inside his own coalition. Since that coalition's majority is so slim, ultimatums are possible even from individual MKs. Netanyahu can be easily threatened from his right or his left.

Thus, the Third Way's Avigdor Kahalani urged yesterday that Netanyahu bring back an agreement. "This is our ultimate demand," he said.

On the Right, the storm rages already, but its full force will be unleashed if Netanyahu "so much as dares to initial an agreement," says Land of Israel Front leader MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher).

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) adds: "If he waters down demands for full reciprocity by the PA and pretends they have been met, then Netanyahu simply won't have a government." Yahalom staunchly denies that the NRP has agreed to swallow a 13 percent pullback.

In reality, no one is talking about the 13% figure. The code word is now reciprocity. The right-wing vows to bring Netanyahu down should he sign something at Wye, while failing to insure unequivocal reciprocity.

This effort will include no-confidence votes, budget votes, and any thing else that comes up in the Knesset.

"We will simply become an opposition," explains the NRP's Hanan Porat. As head of the Knesset Law Committee, he will also speed up deliberations on the early elections bill and support it. A move to challenge Netanyahu with an alternative prime ministerial candidate will then take shape.

This could pull Netanyahu into a run-off and also bring a Labor candidate to power. "That will be Netanyahu's fault. If he wants to prevent a Labor government, he should not cave in now," said Porat.

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Wye summit opens today



Thousands of protesters gather last night outside the Prime Minister's Residence to call on PM Binyamin Netanyahu to refrain from agreeing to any further withdrawal. Some of the signs displayed read: "If there is a withdrawal, there will be no government." (Kevin Unger)

CIA chief Tenet to join talks

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — In a bid to seal an agreement on security matters, CIA Director George Tenet will participate in the US-Israeli-Palestinian summit that begins today.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was expected to arrive in Washington early this morning and proceed to the White House for a meeting with President Bill Clinton and Palestinian Authority

virtual news blackout on the proceedings. Except for the opening afternoon session, the press will be barred from Wye, and only occasional briefings will be arranged for reporters.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is expected to reside at one of the Wye buildings, along with other senior US negotiators who will also remain throughout the negotiations. Clinton will likely drop by at various points over the weekend, US and Israeli sources indicated.

Talks over the security component of the deal will "make or break" the summit, Shoval said.

In a speech to the US Institute of Peace, Shoval said that "the one thing that has been finalized" is Israel's agreement to redeploy from 13 percent of the West Bank, but that while "there has been progress" on security arrangements, it has "not been finalized."

"Without the Palestinian quid, there won't be an Israeli quo," Shoval added, referring to the formula that the US is brokering. "Without an agreement on security on the one hand, there won't be a withdrawal on the other."

The security document "will have to be very specific" because Israel has "so many general promises already, we can paper the wall with them. What we want now is enforceable commitments, checkable commitments."

In London, Arafat said he was optimistic about the prospects for the summit.

"Personally I believe this is a window of opportunity, not only for us Palestinians, not only for the Israelis, but for the entire Middle East," he told reporters after a meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. "I am optimistic because of the energy and time invested by President Bill Clinton."

Arafat said he had "very positive and constructive talks" with Blair and thanked him for helping to keep the peace process alive.

Arafat also canceled a trip to Minnesota's Mayo Clinic to visit Jordan's King Hussein, clinic spokeswoman Jane Jacobs said, adding that she did not know why the visit was canceled or whether it would be rescheduled.

In Jerusalem, hours before Netanyahu's departure to the US, thousands of residents of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, and Habad hassidim gathered outside the Prime Minister's Residence to urge him to refrain from agreeing to any further withdrawal.

See SUMMIT, Page 7

Hyde to focus on 'core charges' against Clinton

By LARRY MARGASAK

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Judiciary Committee chairman Henry Hyde will try to streamline the panel's impeachment inquiry by focusing on the "core charges" against President Bill Clinton: lying under oath, obstruction of justice, and witness tampering, he said yesterday.

Hyde said his goal is to finish the inquiry by the end of the year — a goal he has set before, even while opposing Democratic attempts to set strict time limits on the investigation.

The White House suggested Hyde was floating a trial balloon for political reasons.

The House of Representatives voted last week to authorize the inquiry without limits by time or subject.

"The committee is attempting in this initial phase of the

impeachment inquiry to establish a process for completing the inquiry by the end of the year," Hyde said in a written statement. "This requires streamlining its work to focus on the core charges against the president of lying under oath, obstruction of justice, and witness tampering."

Hyde said the year-end goal could not be met without cooperation from the White House and committee Democrats.

He said in an interview with *The Washington Post* on Tuesday that the 15 potential grounds for impeachment — detailed by the committee's chief investigator last week — may be pared down to meet the voluntary deadline.

"I frankly don't see how we can deal with all 15 charges," Hyde said. "We need to think about narrowing the charges down to the ones that are the most provable."

White House press secretary Joe Lockhart said yesterday that "expansion of charges last week probably was done with politics in mind on the House floor. And floating the idea of reducing them probably has something to do with politics this week."

Hamas: No plot to kill Rajoub

Israel, US tipped off PA of attempt to kill security chief

By STEVE RODAN, MOHAMMED NABIB, and DOUGLAS DAVIS

Israel and the US told the Palestinian Authority about a reported plot by Hamas to assassinate West Bank Preventive Security chief Col. Jibril Rajoub, a Hamas leader told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

Ismail Abu Shanab, a Hamas leader in Gaza, said that a plot was revealed by the CIA and General Security Service to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat several months ago.

At the time, Rajoub was detaining hundreds of Hamas members in the aftermath of the assassination of bombmaker Muhya-Din Sharif.

But Abu Shanab denied that such a plot existed. He said that Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin had investigated and then sent Arafat a letter denying that his movement was planning to kill Rajoub.

"Sheik Yassin sent him a letter that all the information is false and warned him against those who provided such information," Abu Shanab said.

He asserted that it wasn't the first time that Hamas was unjustly accused of planning to kill a

PA official.

"This is not the first time that Israel gave false information," he said. "We at Hamas have red lines to preserve Palestinian blood and we forbid political assassinations. The goal was to feed false information to ignite disorder in Palestinian society and incite the PA against Hamas."

Rajoub could not be reached for comment.

Abu Shanab also said he does not believe PA security services ever verified the alleged plot independently.

The London-based newsletter *Foreign Report* says in an issue being published today that cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian security forces grew "stronger than ever" after the PA was tipped off about the Hamas plot against Rajoub.

Before that, security cooperation had deteriorated after the GSS had arrested two of Rajoub's men.

Rajoub had responded by ending his working relationship with the head of the GSS in the West Bank, who was identified only as "Yuval."

"There was no exchange of information about the common enemy... Hamas," notes the newsletter.

But last month the GSS apprehended a Hamas group that was found to be in the final stages of planning to assassinate Rajoub, *Foreign Report* says.

At first, it said, Rajoub was unconvinced by the GSS' "urgent warning" that he was a Hamas target.

"It was only when the GSS deputy, known by his first name, 'Yisrael,' came with hard evidence that Rajoub accepted that the GSS had saved his life."

However, Rajoub's pride was still bruised and he told the Israelis he would resume cooperation, but only with "Yisrael," not with "Yuval," the newsletter says.

"A deal was struck," said the newsletter, which reported that Rajoub met with "Yisrael" and GSS head Ami Ayalon last Thursday and provided them with "first-hand information about Hamas."

"Both sides are happy," it adds. "Just days before the Washington meeting between Arafat, (Prime Minister Binyamin) Netanyahu, and President Clinton, when many people in the region fear that a big terror attack by Hamas is imminent, the cooperation between the two security services is stronger than ever."

What the Prime Minister's Jubilee Conference is focusing on during these three days...

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NEWS

in brief

Mordechai to meet William Cohen next week

The possibility of a renewed crisis with Iraq is likely to be the topic of discussion in a working meeting between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and his US counterpart William Cohen at the Pentagon on Tuesday, defense source said. Cohen's will have just returned from a tour of the Persian Gulf.

Defense sources in Tel Aviv said both US and Israeli intelligence believe that a crisis could erupt with Iraq when the UN sanctions on Baghdad come up for renewal. Mordechai is to brief Cohen on Israel's position regarding Iraq.

They will also speak of the efforts to prevent the proliferation of non-conventional weapons to the region and Russian aid to Iran's missile development. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Motorist tries to run down cop

Police said that a motorist tried to run down a Herzliya policeman yesterday, after he was ordered to pull over. The policeman was lightly injured.

According to police, the officer attempted to stop the driver for a routine check, but the driver did not respond to his request that he pull over and attempted to run him down. The policeman fired at the tires of the fleeing vehicle. *Itim*

Two killed on roads

Motor scooter rider Yair Gabbai, 22, of Tel Aviv, was killed yesterday when his scooter was struck by a trash truck at the corner of Rothschild and Ben-Zion boulevards.

The truck was turning right and Gabbai may have been trying to pass illegally on the right. The police are asking any witnesses to contact them.

Also in Tel Aviv, Raya Nisimov, 41, was killed when she was struck by a van traveling in reverse.

In other accidents, a pedestrian was seriously injured when she was struck by a bus in Ramat Gan, and a Bat Yam woman was lightly injured when she was hit by a motor scooter rider, who then fled the scene. *Itim*

Soldier at border outpost wounded

A paratrooper was moderately wounded in a long-range Hizbullah mortar attack on an army outpost on the Lebanese border, opposite Kibbutz Manara in the Upper Galilee, early yesterday morning. He was hit by shrapnel.

Security sources said the fact he was wearing his helmet and flak jacket had almost certainly saved his life. He was taken to Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital, but when it was discovered that a piece of shrapnel was lodged near a main blood vessel in his neck, he was evacuated to Rambam Hospital in Haifa where he was in satisfactory condition last night. *David Rudge*

Police: Arabs falsely report attack by Jews

Two Palestinian youths treated for knife injuries yesterday at Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem falsely claimed they had been attacked at Ammunition Hill by three Jewish men wearing knitted yarmulkes, police said.

After investigating, police said they had discovered that the youths were stabbed during the course of a fight with other Arabs. *Amy Klein*

Labor: We'll back a pullback deal

By SARAH HONIG

The Labor Party promised yesterday that should Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu bring back a second phase redeployment deal from Maryland, he would be supported by Labor when the matter comes up before the Knesset - but not for long.

The party made it clear that Netanyahu would not be able to count on Labor to cancel out right-wing threats to bring him down. A statement said that while "the party would support the agreement, we will continue to work tirelessly to advance elections."

It also stipulated that "we shall continue voting no-confidence in the government on socioeconomic issues."

Political observers regard this as an indication that Labor could be counted on to support Netanyahu for a single confidence vote on a pullback deal, but nothing beyond that.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan (Tsomet) said he would oppose "any deal which will not safeguard fully the idea of reciprocity, which will tear away huge chunks of the land of Israel, or which would jeopardize the security of the state and the settlers in Judea and Samaria."

Eitan said he would "unhesitatingly vote against" any deal with which he disagreed.

"This is our last chance, before the final status talks, to avoid far-reaching concessions which will leave very few bargaining chips in our hands later on. A Palestinian

state will be declared in any case and Israel better consider its moves carefully. No fragile security arrangements would obviate the effect of Iraq and Iran in the background," Eitan added.

MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher), who heads the Knesset's Land of Israel Front, said the group would "make sure that Netanyahu is left without a government if he capitulates in the US. If he stands firm, we will back him fully against the expected onslaught from the Left. But if he gives in, he will find that he cannot count on Labor's protection against us."

Kleiner also said there are efforts underway to organize "a membership poll among Oslo opponents," who would vote in any primary held to choose someone to chal-

lenge Netanyahu in early elections.

Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir also accused Netanyahu yesterday of having "betrayed the hopes of those who voted for him."

Shamir was critical of Ariel Sharon's appointment as foreign minister.

"He (Sharon) never displayed the adherence to principle, even in the days when the national camp fared better than it does now. He always had his own ideas and plans which no one could quite understand," Shamir said.

Shamir listed Likud MKs Ze'ev (Bibi) Begin and Uzi Landau as "likely candidates to carry the national camp's banner" as Netanyahu's stand.

Kaddoumi: PA state will 'battle' Israeli forces

By STEVE NODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

A senior PLO official was quoted yesterday as saying that the Palestinians will follow up their declaration of a state next May with a military campaign to drive Israel out of what he termed Palestinian lands.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO political department, said in an interview published yesterday in the Palestinian Authority daily *Al Hayat al-Jedida* that the Palestinians will declare an independent state on May 4, the end of the five-year interim period stipulated by the Oslo Accords.

"After the Palestinian state will win recognition from most of the nations of the world, as expected," Kaddoumi said, "the Israeli presence on Palestinian lands will become illegal and we will fight this with weapons. The battle against the Israeli forces is a right reserved to us."

Kaddoumi did not specify what he meant by Palestinian lands. PA officials have said they will accept no less than a Palestinian state comprised of the entire West Bank, Gaza Strip, east Jerusalem and an internationally-recognized corridor connecting the two areas.

Israeli officials said they were taking seriously Kaddoumi's threat - first reported in the Gulf daily *Al-Hayat* and reprinted in *Al Hayat al-Jedida*. They pointed out that this was consistent with the warnings of other Palestinian officials that they would not tolerate an Israeli presence in the West Bank or Gaza Strip after they declare a state.

"This is a clear indication that a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state would constitute an act of hostility and aggression against the state of Israel," said David Bar-Ilan, policy planning and communications director for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

"Israel would not be able to tolerate such a declaration and would have to take appropriate counter-measures."

Regarding Hamas, Kaddoumi said the Islamic movement represents part of the Palestinian nationalist movement and that Hamas's disputes with the PA "are tactical and not strategic. We disagree with Hamas regarding the daily activities or concerning tactics, but we agree with them regarding strategy that the aim is to fight the Israeli occupation and to end its presence on Palestinian lands."

NEWSLINE

On the eve of his departure for Wye Plantation, cabinet secretary Dan Naveh spoke about his expectations for the summit.

Q: What is the best case scenario for the upcoming summit?

A: The best would be if we were to reach a deal in which the Palestinians agree to fulfill their commitments and our security needs are completely met. Actually, this is the only real success scenario, since if our demands are not met there will be no deal.

And the worst case scenario?

The not-so-good scenario would be, obviously, if we were not to make a deal. But it must be remembered that we are going to the US with the idea that while we want to reach a deal, we won't go for a deal at any price.

And what is your actual prediction?

Look, Israel has already done its part... The Palestinians might be saying the same thing, but I don't know what they have done. Look at the parallel, we are to redeploy - they are to make reciprocity commitments.

We have agreed to our part, and now it is really their turn, the onus is on them.

Israel says it is going to the negotiations with the end points already in hand. Does this mean there will be no flexibility?

We are willing to go back and renegotiate our willingness to with-



Dan Naveh (Isaac Harari)

draw from 13 percent of the West Bank. For example, we would rather be withdrawing from say, five plus two, or four plus one. So, just as we had to make some difficult concessions, so now it is the Palestinians turn. The points we set out are those areas in which there is no room for flexibility on our part, and the need for some real concessions from the other side.

Will the Israelis and the Americans be pressing the Palestinians up against the wall? No, this is Israel versus the Palestinians. The US is and remains the facilitator, not even mediator and certainly not a side.

So, will you come back here with an agreement?

I hope so, and I think the chances are good, although I can't tell you that the chances are 100 percent. As I said before, there will not be an agreement at any price. The prime

minister has said on several occasions that he is willing to take political risks, but not security ones. I think we are not far from agreement, but sometimes even when you are closest, you still can't clinch a deal.

What will happen if there continue to be terror attacks like the two which have taken place in recent days?

This is certainly a hard part, and this is why we are making all these security demands. We expect 100 percent efforts, but can not necessarily expect 100 percent results.

With Ariel Sharon's appointment as foreign minister, and the announcement that he will be in charge of the final-status talks, what is your role going to be in the negotiations?

I am going to be in the same position as always, as head of the monitoring steering committee on the Israeli side - of course in coordination with Sharon and the Foreign Ministry. It is going to be joint work.

What does it feel like, to be a main player in a process which involved giving up land?

A: Personally, I feel that every percentage of land from which we withdraw will be painful. Beyond the security and strategic considerations, I have emotional issues to deal with. I was brought up with believing in the importance of the Land of Israel and giving up parts of it now it really not simple. *Danna Harman*

Bishop

The Israel Psychoanalytic Society mourns the untimely death of its dear friend, colleague and member

Prof JOSEPH SANDLER

who passed away in London

The unveiling of the monument in memory of the late
HELEN KATZ ז"ל
will take place on Friday, October 16, at 12:50 p.m., at Sede Yehoshua (Kfar Samir) Cemetery, Haifa (She'ar Oren).
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.
Judy Katz-Howard, David Katz, Shirley Schneider, and families

We sadly mourn the passing of

ABE LEGUM

Brother: Colin Legum
Sister and brother-in-law: Doreen & Harry Kaplan
Nephews: Lester, John and David, and their families.

In deep sorrow we announce the death of our beloved

MARGIT HANNAH KOHN ז"ל

who died peacefully on October 14, 1998, aged 93

The funeral will take place at 11 a.m. today, at the Haifa Kfar Samir cemetery (Tamar Gate).
Shiva at 56 Rehov Yehoshua Bin Nun, Herzliya Pituach

Son: Paul
Grandchildren: Rafi, Galia and their families
Danny, Leli

With deep sorrow we separate from my beloved husband, our father and grandfather

Prof. MOSHE ALTBAUER
who passed away in old age

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, October 15, 1998 (25 Tishrei 5759), at 3 p.m., leaving from the Kehilat Yerushalayim funeral home, Givat Shaul.

Shiva at the house of Altbauer family, 12a Rehov Keren Kayemet, Jerusalem.

The family.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing in his ninety-eighth year of

PAUL HERZOG

beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Suscha Herzog
Judy and Nissan Rand
Anita and Eugene Weiner
Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

The funeral: Friday, October 16, 1998, 11 a.m. at Kiryat Shaul Cemetery
Shiva: 1 Rehov Shamir, Afeka, Tel Aviv. Tel. 03-641-7757

Sharon meets the staff

Newly-appointed Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon holds his first meeting yesterday with ministry advisers, including director-general Eytan Bentsur (right).

Mordechai briefs military negotiators

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai gathered all members of the negotiating team from the Defense Ministry and IDF yesterday afternoon for a final brief-

ing before heading to the summit in Maryland. According to defense sources, the meeting focused on the security aspects expected to arise during the negotiations.

Attending the briefing were the

OC Planning Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai, Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Or, coordinator of government activities in the territories, Maj.-Gen. (res.) Meir Dagan, head of the bureau to combat terrorism, and senior IDF officers and GSS officials. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz also participated, but he is not going to the summit.

Mordechai later told reporters he believes the conditions could be ripe for successful negotiations. But he said there are four conditions which must be met:

- A security agreement with the Palestinians centered on a systematic and continuous war on terrorist infrastructure.
- Agreement on the third redeployment.
- An agreement that both sides refrain from taking unilateral actions as long as discussions are taking place.
- Creating the right atmosphere.
- There are good conditions for

the success of the summit at Wye Plantation. The actual presence of the president of the United States and the Israeli security cabinet, headed by the prime minister, and the Palestinian security cabinet, headed by Yasser Arafat. There is a great chance to achieve progress and an agreement," Mordechai said. "The true test will be the joint work and the creation of an atmosphere and conditions different from today's."

Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu denied earlier reports on Israel Radio that Mordechai had suggested not going to the summit under the current conditions. Benayahu said that this had never been the Mordechai's view.

Meanwhile, Mofaz and GSS head Ami Ayalon met Tuesday night with the heads of Palestinian Preventative Security to discuss warnings of an impending Hamas attack during the summit, Israel Radio reported.



Mourners carry the corpse of Itamar Doron at his funeral in Moshav Ora yesterday. Doron, 24, was killed Tuesday and Ilan Mazon, 25, was wounded in a terrorist attack at a spring near the moshav. (Kevin Unger)

Report: Two held in Ora shootings

By AMY KLEIN

Israeli security forces arrested two Palestinians yesterday in Walaja village on suspicion of killing Itamar Doron, 24, and seriously wounding Ilan Mazon, 25, in Tuesday's gunshot attack at nearby Ora Spring in the southwestern corridor of Jerusalem, Channel Two reported.

IDF sources would not comment on the report. Walaja is under Israeli security control.

Doron and Mazon were attacked while bathing in the natural spring, which lies in a Wadi separating Moshav Ora and Moshav Aminadav from Batir and Walaja. The IDF had imposed a closure on Walaja following the murder. It was lifted yesterday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday after the attack that unless the Palestinian Authority fulfills Israeli security demands there is "absolutely no chance" of reaching an agreement

at the Wye Plantation summit, which begins today. He demanded that PA leader Yasser Arafat apprehend the suspects if they had entered PA-controlled areas.

Hundreds of friends and family attended Doron's funeral yesterday afternoon in Moshav Ora, including Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Eli Yishai.

Doron's cousin, Yoav Ben-Tsur, called on the crowd not to take revenge for the murder. "Revenge is not our way. God will avenge

the blood of the victims," he said. "Let our security forces take care of the terrorists, and have faith in God to take care of the rest."

Doron, who became a Braslav Hassid one year ago, was survived by parents, a younger brother and younger sister. He was buried in the southern section of the Moshav.

Mazon is in intensive care at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, and is listed in serious but stable condition.

Kahalani: 5 Arab youths confessed to setting fires

500 residents return to Nir Etzion, Ein Hod

By DAVID RUDGE

Five Arab youths confessed to setting some of this week's forest fires, saying it was in revenge for police aggression against Arab demonstrators during a recent land dispute, an official said yesterday.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said that the youths lived in the Wadi Ara area, where the fires began.

In a separate development, Carmel National Park manager Nafali Gedalyahu said that park wardens had discovered a home-made torch in the area around the Tlalim picnic site where the fire in the nearby Danya district of Haifa had erupted.

He said the torch was made up of a meter-long cane wrapped in newspaper at the top.

"It was found some 300-400 meters from the place where the (Danya) fire broke out in an area that was not burned in the blaze. I couldn't say whether it was connected to the fire or not. It has been handed over to the police and they are investigating," he said.

Fire inspection experts said at the time that it appeared that

Danya fire had broken out as a result of visitors not properly extinguishing barbecue grills.

Meanwhile, inquiries were launched into how this week's fires were handled and whether there was proper coordination between the various authorities and fire-fighting bodies.

Regarding the fire in Nir Etzion, police questioned and then released a resident of the nearby Arab village of Ein Hod whose car had caught fire as he was bringing his wife and relatives back to the village following an earlier blaze on Monday.

It is believed that flames from the burning car had ignited the blaze in Nir Etzion on Tuesday by spreading to nearby trees.

The Ein Hod man was released after it was ascertained that he had immediately alerted the authorities about his car catching fire.

Some 500 residents returned to Nir Etzion and Ein Hod after two days of fires destroyed or damaged more than a dozen homes in their Mt. Carmel villages.

The cost of property damage in Nir Etzion and Ein Hod is estimated in the millions of dollars, apart from the price of fighting

the fires and rehabilitating the charred forests and woodlands.

For some, the damage to their homes was less upsetting than the loss of personal belongings, family mementos, photographs and other items.

Even those whose homes escaped the fire storm, found they had to contend with another form of loss - the destruction of all the greenery that for some was the prime reason for setting up home in a place like Ein Hod.

Some artists who had captured the scenic landscape on canvas found that even the pictures were gone.

Gedalyahu said that more than 5,600 dunams of natural woodlands were destroyed.

"We know that a lot of wildlife, including snakes, insects, tortoise and other slow-moving animals were killed in the fires and that maybe even some other animals, although we have not been able to make a complete examination yet," Gedalyahu said.

"As for the trees, it will take between 60-70 years before saplings that are planted now or new ones that spring up naturally grow to the size of the ones that were destroyed," he said.

'Miracle' saved youth village from the flames

By DAVID RUDGE

A "Simhat Torah miracle," is how staff and students of the Yemin Orde Youth Village on Mt. Carmel reacted to the survival of the complex unscathed from the inferno that ravaged neighboring communities and huge tracts of forest and woodland.

Most of the staff and the 500 children returned to the village yesterday after the mass evacuation on Monday afternoon during the height of Simhat Torah festivities.

"We had just left the synagogue and were sitting down to a festive meal in the dining room when we saw, through the windows, a wall of flames just a few hundred meters away, near Ein Hod," said Dr. Chaim Peri, director of the educational village.

"All of us, staff and students, went outside and we were simply mesmerized by the sight of the fire which was heading towards us. It was terrifying," he said.

Some of the students at the village, which was founded in 1953 as a Youth Aliyah project, had gone to stay with relatives for the holiday. Nevertheless, there were still more than 350 people on the campus at the time.

The village itself is situated on a promontory overlooking the Mediterranean, not far from the artists village of Ein Hod and virtually opposite Moshav Nir Etzion.

The complex, which is laid out like a small kibbutz, is home to 500 teenagers, including many new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia and South America, who live and study there.

Like the neighboring communities, which were badly hit by the fires, Yemin Orde is surrounded by trees, many of them Jerusalem Pine which proved to be highly inflammable.

"We saw the flames approaching and we were afraid that sparks would be blown over and set fire to the trees around and inside the village and the whole place would be engulfed," said Peri.

"We lined everybody up outside and then we walked in a procession led by some of our older students carrying the Torah scrolls from our synagogue."

"It seemed very symbolic as we walked past the gates and headed towards the big swimming pool at nearby Nir Etzion, which I thought would be the safest place for all the children. I figured that if the fire got any closer we could at least jump into the water."

But Nir Etzion did not prove to be any safer, on the contrary, and a short while later all the staff and students were evacuated from the area. They were taken in buses provided by the Hof Hazamot regional council to Kfar Sitrin just off the old Haifa - Hadera road, not far from the turnoff to Adit.

From there, some of the students went to other places in the north on Tuesday before being allowed to return to Yemin Orde yesterday after the fires which had raged in the area since Monday were finally brought under control.

They found that the forests and woodlands that had helped create one of the finest views in the region had been destroyed, the greenery replaced by piles of gray ashes and blackened skeletons of once flourishing trees and bushes.

The village itself, however, was intact - the homes of the staff and teenagers, classrooms, library, dining room, the synagogue and even the gardens untouched by the fires.

"Already some of the children are calling it the Simhat Torah miracle," said Peri. "We were very fortunate, but our hearts go out to residents of Nir Etzion and Ein Hod, some of whom work here."

Knesset panel acts to aid fire victims

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

This week's rash of fires should be declared a natural disaster so as to speed aid to its victims, the Knesset Interior Committee decided yesterday. The panel called on Interior Minister Eliahu Suissa to raise this recommendation at government level.

The committee also made a series of recommendations aimed at preventing future fires, including declaring certain regions bordering on large forests "red areas" to be given priority in fire prevention.

The committee also urged to recommend that the government act swiftly to recognize hamlets like Ein Hud, which narrowly avoided being caught up in the Carmel

blaze. (Ein Hud itself received recognition in December 1994.)

Jewish National Fund Director-General Yitzhak Elyashiv told the committee the fires had destroyed 9,000 dunams (2,250 acres) of forest. Replacing and repairing what was destroyed or damaged will cost some NIS 18 million, he said.

Committee chairman Micha Goldmann said that if the blazes are not recognized as a natural disaster, residents, businessmen, and local authorities will not be able to be properly compensated.

"If we don't do so, we will find people who are unable to return to their homes, and whose livelihoods are lost," he said. "We can't move on without declaring this a natural disaster, so the tax authorities can

provide the needed help."

Goldmann, who visited the scene of the fires, said he had encountered "a reality in which the system is unable to deal simultaneously with a large number of fires."

Goldmann said he has "a shelf full" of reports, including those from the Lapidot and Ginnosar committees on the subject, but the problem is how to translate the recommendations into action. Progress has to be made towards creating a unified national fire-fighting authority, in reducing the average age of firefighters, and replacing outdated equipment, he said.

"All this requires funding, and the problem isn't the Interior Ministry, or the Fire and Rescue Service, or local authorities, the problem is the

Finance Ministry," Goldmann said.

He demanded that immediate funding be provided to the Interior Ministry for new firefighting equipment.

Suissa said that "we've all become experts on fire prevention. Look, I'm no firefighter, but even if you bring in a jumbo jet filled with water, with flames 30 meters 40 m high, in such heat, not even such a plane could help much. Planes aren't our problem today. We need to see what we're going to do today or tomorrow, not what we're going to do for next summer or in five years, although that's also important."

Suissa said the first emphasis must be placed on immediately replacing outdated fire engines, 25

percent of which are more than 20 years old. Replacing the 78 outdated vehicles would require about NIS 78 million, he said. Another 138 firefighters are also needed immediately, he said.

He said that the prime minister had asked for a plan for immediate provision of firefighting equipment be presented to him next week, and work is under way on preparing it.

Fire and Rescue Service commander Moshe Averbach said that even in countries with superior firefighting equipment, there is still serious damage from forest fires. "There are no miracle cures," he warned, but added that "you must give us the initial assistance we need," especially regarding equipment and manpower.

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Biran: Defense firms in hard times

By STEVE RODAN

The country's defense industries are facing hard times and arms exports this year are expected to be 40 percent less than in 1997, defense officials said yesterday.

"I shall not hide from you that a number of our defense industries have experienced structural, cash flow, and organizational difficulties," Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran told the Prime Minister's Jubilee Business Summit in Jerusalem. "Some of them have been rather severe."

Earlier, Biran said the ministry's forecast is that arms exports this year will amount to \$1.5 billion, down 40% from \$2.5 billion in 1997.

In 1997, officials said, arms exports exceeded the ministry's forecast by 25%.

In contrast, they said, Israel this year is feeling the affects of

a worldwide slump in the arms market.

"The problem is mostly Asia, but not only Asia," a defense official said.

In his address, Biran said the government has drafted what he called a national strategy for the future of the defense industries. "I speak of a far-reaching reform," he said, "anchored in the privatization and mergers of large portions of our defense industries and the fostering of strategic alliances between Israeli companies and their counterparts abroad."

Biran said he is confident that the 10-year military modernization program can succeed. He said the program is based on developing technology in intelligence-gathering, air, and space while not increasing the budget in real terms.

"It is an ambitious, but in our judgment, a doable undertaking," he said.



Touring the grounds

Reuma Weizman, the president's wife, leads the spouses of ambassadors serving in Israel on a tour of the sculpture garden at Beit Hanassi yesterday.

(Isaac Harari)

Netanya school strike continues

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Netanya school strike is set to continue today for a third day, after Education Minister Yitzhak Levy failed to persuade the local branch of the Israel Parents Association to end the sanctions.

City officials were trying to arrange a meeting with the parents last night to try to end the strike, but Avi Metzger, head of the local parents association, said he doubted an agreement could be reached in so short a time.

Metzger praised Levy for taking time out to meet with the parents, but said they had emerged from the meeting "with nothing to show for it, so we decided to continue the strike."

"He said he would look into things, set up a committee which will give us an answer in 10 days, etc., but we didn't have any real answers, and we told him that wasn't why we had come to Jerusalem," Metzger said.

He said that representatives from the Netanya Municipality had met with the school principals yesterday in an attempt "to pressure them" into breaking the strike.

According to Metzger, city schools were 95% closed yesterday, and kindergartens about 80% closed.

The strike was called to protest safety violations in Netanya's schools, including roofs and ceilings in danger of collapse in elementary schools, according to the parents.

Metzger denied claims by city officials that the strike is "political." He said that there is "a Babylon" of political opinions among parents association officials.

Mendy Weiss, the head of Netanya's education department, accused the parents association of being "unfair," saying that parents had promised to stop the strike as soon as an agreement on a meeting with Levy was reached.

Weiss called on parents to send their children to school despite the strike. "The teachers are in the classrooms, and any pupil who comes to school will learn," he said.

Lockheed Martin, Israeli firms to sign memo on F-16 upgrade

By STEVE RODAN

Lockheed Martin is today scheduled to sign a memorandum of understanding with an Israeli consortium on future cooperation in the upgrade of the US company's F-16 fighter.

The memorandum, executives said, does not commit any of its signatories and is vague regarding future plans. But the US and Israeli firms agreed to explore the possibilities joining forces in upgrading the thousands of F-16s now serving in air forces around the world.

A senior executive involved said Lockheed Martin is being invited to join the Israeli consortium in a program by the Israeli Air Force to upgrade its F-16A and B models, which entered into service nearly 20 years ago. The IAF has not finalized details of the upgrade.

"The scenario as we see it is that Lockheed Martin would help us with structural work on the F-16 in the IAF upgrade," the executive

said. "If the upgrade is a success, then we could offer this to other air forces."

About two-thirds of the 700 F-16s in air forces outside the US are A and B models. But not all air forces are expected to upgrade them. The US Air Force, for example, with 2,300 F-16s is expected to scrap its older models.

The Israeli consortium includes Israel Aircraft Industries, its subsidiary, Elta Electronics Industries, Elbit Systems Ltd., El-Op Electro-Optics Industries, and Rafael, the Armaments Development Authority. These companies will work with the IAF, and the ministries of Finance and Defense.

The announcement of the Lockheed Martin memorandum comes one day after Boeing and IAI said they would sign an agreement for future cooperation today. Executives said both agreements are vague and are part of the fierce competition between Boeing and Lockheed Martin for the sale of the next US combat jets

to the IAF for an expected \$2.5 billion.

Elta today will also sign an agreement to cooperate with Raytheon Systems, Lexington, Mass., for the development, production, and marketing of airborne early warning and command and control systems.

Those signing will be IAI president Moshe Keret and Raytheon vice president for government systems Dennis Cleverly.

IAI is seeking to market its Phalcon airborne early warning system, which was sold to Chile in 1995 and is now in competition in Australia. The Phalcon is an active phased array electronic scanning radar.

IAI and Raytheon are partners in the Australia airborne early warning competition. IAI has offered a Phalcon-derived radar, and Raytheon has submitted its communications and mission control system.

The same team is also competing in South Korea and Turkey.

University students call tuition fee strike

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Prospects for an orderly beginning of the university year grew dim yesterday, as angry student leaders announced their intention to stay out of classrooms, block entrances to universities and, if necessary, "disrupt daily life in the state of Israel."

The steps are being planned to protest what they consider to be excessive tuition fees.

Classes are scheduled to begin next Monday at many of the nation's colleges and at the Haifa Technion.

At these institutions, the strike is scheduled to begin three days after the beginning of classes, on Thursday, October 22, student leaders have announced.

The following week, on Monday, October 25, students at the other universities are set to join the strike.

The student representatives are demanding that tuition, which comes to NIS 9,500 this year, be slashed by half, and that the government assist students to obtain loans that are paid back once studies are complete and the graduates begin work.

As an initial step, the leaders are calling on the 200,000 students enrolled at government institutions of higher learning to withhold all tuition payments beyond this year's first installment.

"We don't want this strike, but we are being forced into it by the unresponsiveness of the finance minister, who is utterly unwilling to sit and negotiate with us," said Lior Rotblatt, the chairman of the National Students Association.

He praised the public support that Education Minister Yitzhak Levy has given to the fight to cut tuition, but said that only the Treasury has the authority to release the funds that would help the students. "If the government [officials] won't negotiate with

us in their offices, they'll have to deal with us in the streets," he said.

The student leaders said that tuition and living costs have risen beyond the means of the students. They added that academic standards are suffering because students are forced to devote more hours to work to support themselves and less to studies.

Treasury Spokesman Eli Yosef said last night that no one in the Treasury has refused to meet student leaders and a meeting will be arranged in the near future.

The tuition level this year was set in accordance with the Maltz Commission, established in the wake of a student strike in 1996.

Yosef said three students were voting members of the commission. They had agreed to the level of funding for five years and that it would not be increased during that time other than through adjustments in line with inflation, he said.

"They must keep to that arrangement, as we intend doing," Yosef added.

The students' position is supported by some faculty members. At yesterday's press conference, Professor Zohar Shavit of Tel Aviv University said Israeli students suffer far greater challenges to receiving a higher education than their counterparts in Western Europe, many of whom have their studies fully funded by their governments.

She said more affordable higher education would be necessary for Israel to keep up with the rest of the world.

"We are not just talking about the fate of the students, we are talking about the fate of the entire country," she said.

A site has been set up on the World Wide Web to keep students up to date on strike developments: <http://www.mazavak.co.il>

David Zev Harris contributed to this report

How to eavesdrop on the Telephone

By JUDY SIEGEL

The consumer monthly *Obyektiv* gives precise instructions in today's issue about how to eavesdrop on nearby telephone conversations by keying in a series of numbers and letters from your own phone.

There are also plans to explain in the next issue how to enter a cell phone user's voice mail box and hear the messages without being detected, magazine publisher Adi Zurbabin said.

Zurbabin said that while one needs an illegal listening device to eavesdrop on other types of cellular phones, such as Cellcom, "Telephones - operating on an analog system instead of digital - are the only ones in Israel where one can do so by pressing the keys of your phone and being nearby."

"You can hone in on the phone conversation you want. Telephone must make this risk clear to all its subscribers. Think how many government officials, company managing directors and others speak freely over a telephone," he said. Zurbabin denied that the articles on eavesdropping had anything to do with the magazine's past favorable publicity for Cellcom, telephone's competitor. Surveys published by the magazine have maintained that Cellcom provides better service than Pelephone. Cellcom has paid *Obyektiv* to use these surveys as advertisements.

Telephone spokeswoman Ayelet Gradman said that "all cellular phones in the world are electronically marked with an access code for maintenance and technical tests. It allows eavesdropping by chance, but one can't direct them to a certain number or intervene in a conversation or disrupt it."

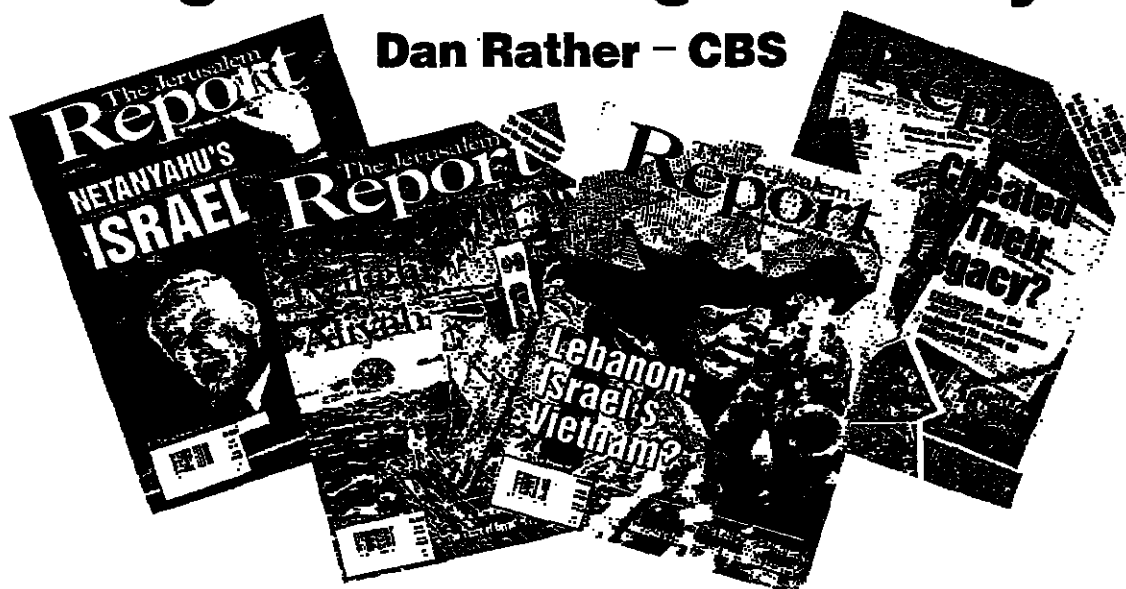
Gradman also cited newspaper articles quoting a senior police intelligence officer saying that it is "relatively easy to eavesdrop on both Pelephone and Cellcom phones using a code."

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Peres, Barak meet, but fail to end feud

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak and his predecessor, former prime minister Shimon Peres, met yesterday in an effort to put their feud on hold.

Reports from both sides report that the atmosphere was good but that nothing was really resolved. The on-and-off antagonism

between the two was revived recently when Peres came out in support of Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's bid for reelection, instead of Labor's underdog candidate Shimon Shetreet.

Barak, who has continued supporting Shetreet, considered Peres's move as a betrayal and as yet another in a long list of challenges by Peres to Barak's leadership.

Barak is said to be outraged at what he considers as Peres' continued snapping at his heels and Peres' tendency to take advantage of any opportunity to express disapproval for Barak.

Yesterday's meeting was not the first attempt to get the two to make up. Barak said afterwards that "there remains a good potential for cooperation."

But *The Jerusalem Post* has learned that Barak did not retract his derogatory remarks about Peres, while Peres announced that he intends to continue supporting Olmert.

The meeting, according to both participants, was "business-like and cordial," and is to be followed by further attempts to make peace in the Labor house.



At Forum 2000

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau (left) glances at Czech President Vaclav Havel during yesterday's session of the Forum 2000 conference in Prague. The key theme of this year's annual meeting was globalization and its effect on society. (AP)

Shetreet to try to disqualify Olmert

By AMY KLEIN

Labor's candidate for Jerusalem mayor, Professor Shimon Shetreet, said yesterday that he would appeal to the elections committee to have Mayor Ehud Olmert and two candidates on the United Jerusalem List disqualified from running in the city elections.

Shetreet said at a news conference called to introduce Jerusalem One's candidate list that he would challenge Olmert's reelection bid on the basis of a law that bars Knesset members from running in mayoral elections.

Olmert, an MK for the Likud, has been allowed to hold both his legislative and mayoral jobs because he was elected mayor before the law was passed.

Now Shetreet wants to test whether the law would bar Olmert for running again for mayor.

"The law says this is a conflict of interest, and this will now be put to a legal test," Shetreet said.

Shetreet is also asking to disqualify Olmert's running mate, Israel Electric Corp. General Manager Rafi Peled, also a former police inspector-general, and Haim Cohen, number four on Olmert's list and a former secretary-general of the Labor Party's Jerusalem branch.

Shetreet argued that Peled could not be a city councillor since he heads a major government corporation, while Cohen should be disqualified on the basis of having stood trial for bribery and theft, although he was later pardoned.

The appeal is to be filed on October 20.

Olmert's campaign office had no comment.

Shetreet also called on former prime minister Shimon Peres to resign from the Labor Party for backing Olmert.

Former Mayor Teddy Kollek, who was at the news conference, is number 16 on the One Jerusalem list.

NEWS

in brief

Public defender available to all detainees

All adult detainees and minors who are brought to court for remand will be able to enjoy the services of a public defender. Until now, a court decision was required for such representation. The chief public defender, Prof. Kenneth Mann, yesterday announced that the new regulations would go into effect next month. Mann said that his office and the police force had cooperated to establish the new rules with regard to representation of detainees and that these were currently being brought to the attention of the various police stations in the country. At the same time, prisoners were being informed about their rights. *Baisheva Tsur.*

Labor faults PM on Sharon approval

Labor yesterday strongly condemned Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for having failed to formally inform the Knesset of Ariel Sharon's appointment as foreign minister. "How could a foreign minister be appointed just before the Washington trip and the prime minister doesn't have the decency to do the basic thing and tell the Speaker of the Knesset," said Elie Goldschmidt, speaking at a special Knesset plenary session. Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon informed the House the government will present a notice of the appointment next week. *David Zev Harris*

Appeal delayed on US teen extradition order

Supreme Court hearings on the appeal of a Maryland murder suspect fighting extradition to the United States are being postponed until next month, the Justice Ministry said yesterday. The hearings had initially been scheduled to begin yesterday. Justice Ministry spokeswoman Orit Shemesh said the state attorney's office requested more time for preparations.

Defense lawyers appealed the Jerusalem District Court ruling which upheld their client's to Israeli citizenship but said he has no right to stay in the country because he had not maintained close ties to Israel.

The 18-year-old suspect has been charged with killing and dismembering a fellow Maryland teenager in September 1997. *AP*

Man drowns in Netanya

A 40-year-old man drowned yesterday in Netanya at the Green Beach. A Magen David Adom doctor who was called to the scene certified that the man was dead. *Itim*

10-year sentence for screwdriver stabbing

A Tel Aviv District Court judge sentenced Eyal Yitzhak, 22, to 10 years in prison yesterday plus a two-year suspended term for fatally stabbing pizza owner Victor Ben-Hamo with a screwdriver, three years ago in Petah Tikvah.

The stabbing occurred during a fight involving Ben-Hamo, 30, his son and about 10 of Yitzhak's friends.

Judge Saviona Roth-Levy cited that Yitzhak and his friends had absconded after the stabbing without trying to help Ben-Hamo. Yitzhak also fled left the country for Belgium and returned recently only after his lawyers struck a plea bargain, by which Yitzhak would be convicted of manslaughter. *Itim*

Postal Authority charged with racial bias

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Two law students who applied for work in the sorting office of the Postal Authority were turned down because they were Arabs, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel said yesterday.

ACRI petitioned the Jerusalem Labor Court on behalf of the two. About a year ago, Hassan Aghbariye applied to a job recruitment office representing the Postal Authority to work as a sorter. But the following day, he was contacted and told the work was reserved for those who had served in the IDF.

ACRI said. Despite repeated inquiries to the authority, he did not receive an official reason for this.

At about the same time, Aghbariye and another Arab student, Mohammed Kadah, answered an ad for sorting mail placed by a different employment office. When they arrived for an interview, the ACRI brief said, they were asked their names. The clerk then told them that the job was no longer available. The two called the company two days later, gave assumed names, and were told there were vacancies.

When ACRI approached the

authority, its representative was told it was not responsible for the discrimination. However, the authority admitted that it had no Arabs in its employ.

The two students, who live on the Hebrew University campus, have not yet been able to find suitable work, ACRI said.

The Labor Court was requested to order the authority and the employment offices to pay each student NIS 17,340 for loss of income and an additional NIS 100,000 to Aghbariye and NIS 70,000 to Kadah for discrimination on a racial basis.

Likud court declines to expel Meridor

By SARAH HONIG

The Likud's internal court yesterday dismissed outright two petitions to expel dissident MK Dan Meridor from the party.

Veteran activist Avraham Appel and Gilad Arden, head of the party's youth wing, separately asked the court to rule that Meridor had forfeited his party membership when he voted last

summer in favor of the opposition motion to advance elections.

Presiding over the court, retired district court judge Hanna Ekenor rejected both petitions on the grounds that "most internal political conflicts arise from personal clashes and these cannot serve as grounds for expelling a member. If we do so, we could become a one-man party."

She also rejected the notion that Meridor's meetings with political

figures from various parties with an eye to forming a new political entity are grounds for expulsion. "We have no way of ascertaining what the meetings are for. For all we know he could be trying to return others to the Likud fold," Ekenor said.

The expulsion motion had been opposed by the Likud establishment, reportedly including Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The official line, as represented at

the proceedings by party legal adviser Eitan Haberman, was staunchly against expulsion.

Meridor has not been behaving or voting like a Likud MK since he resigned as finance minister. However, Netanyahu is reported unwilling to goad him out of the party altogether. For now Meridor, at least formally, continues to belong to the Likud's Knesset faction.

NCC complains of breast enlargement on minor

By JUDY SIEGEL

A Herzliya Medical Center surgeon performed breast-enlargement surgery on a 15-year-old girl two

years ago, without first getting a parent's permission or checking her age, the National Council for the Child (NCC) disclosed yesterday in a complaint to the Health Ministry.

The teenager complained recently to Dr. Yitzhak Kadman of the NCC after the middle-aged man who financed the NIS 20,000 surgery demanded the money back when the girl left him. The girl, who lives in Herzliya, also complained about pains in her chest and complained to the police against the private hos-

pital and the operating surgeon, Dr. Amir Zelikovsky.

The girl met the man when she worked as a waitress in a cafe; he fell in love with her and encouraged her to undergo a breast-enlargement operation at his expense. But recently, when she tried to break off with him, he sued her for NIS 30,000 - the original cost of the operation plus interest and linkage. Kadman noted that the case was "an unparalleled medical and legal scandal; doctors

we spoke to said that was risk of real harm to the girl, since she underwent the surgery at a time when she was developing physically."

HMC chairman Dr. Aubrey Joffe commented last night that the girl, who underwent surgery on August 18, 1996, "presented herself as a woman of 19. She clearly misled and lied to us... There is no law requiring us to check identity cards, and we didn't suspect anything wrong in this case."

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Bearing false witness

As Israeli and Palestinian Authority leaders meet to try and break the deadlock, it is vital to recognize the PA's real, serious efforts to find a secure and lasting compromise solution to the conflict.

Recently, Israeli groups opposed to the peace process have scoured Palestinian newspapers, television programs and radio broadcasts seeking ammunition to claim the PA is extremist, antisemitic, and not ready to make a lasting peace with Israel.

That any such material exists is a cause for protest, yet it is also misleading when presented as typical of the PA's policy or behavior, or of the Palestinian debate.

Collecting the most extreme statements while ignoring more numerous moderate ones is a propaganda technique, not honest research.

The Region



Barry Rubin

Actually, the list of PA efforts to comply with its commitments to Israel in word and deed is extremely long, and has been unjustly ignored in the domestic Israeli debate.

Yasser Arafat and other PA officials repeatedly condemn Palestinian terrorist acts against Israelis. This response has become so routine that Israel takes this for granted, rather than recognizing its significance.

The PA has interned hundreds of activists from Hamas and other violent groups for months to stop them — and intimidate others — from extremist deeds. While Israel never asked for these prisoners to be tortured or held without trial for long periods of time, the PA security forces' toughness certainly shows their seriousness.

Dozens of Palestinians responsible for attacking or planning to attack Israelis have been arrested, tried, and imprisoned. The PA has refused to extradite suspects to Israel and has even released a few convicts who promised to quit Hamas and support Arafat. Yet this does not negate the large-scale effort made.

The PA has repeatedly tried to persuade Hamas — or at least some of the group's leaders — to make a deal to cease attacking Israel in exchange for a share of power.

In October 1995, when the PA perhaps came closest to success, top Arafat aide Tayyib Abdul Rahim told the rejectionists that they did not have to agree with Arafat's policies or accept the Oslo agreements but could only oppose "these commitments through peaceful and democratic methods."

While Fatah was for many decades the main group launching attacks on Israel, Fatah members have hardly carried out a single attack since 1993.

Whereas virtually every speech made by Arafat and other Fatah leaders before 1993 called for eliminating Israel, the entire tone and pattern of their rhetoric has changed. They speak of struggle, but it is a struggle to establish a Palestinian state on the territories Israel captured in 1967.

Far from being arrogant aggressors, determined to destroy Israel, most Palestinians are very much aware of their weakness compared to Israel, including the lack of meaningful international Arab or Islamic support.

In fact, a generally held view is that Israel's power makes it unwilling to compromise. This is not a movement plotting broad conquests but one desperately trying to gain control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

We are painfully aware that about 250 people in Israel have been killed as a result of Palestinian attacks since 1993, but almost the same number of Palestinians have been killed by Israelis. The cases are not strictly equivalent. Some of the slain Palestinians were involved in attacks; more were throwing stones. Still, many were passersby. The Palestinians have also paid a high price in the last five years.

Palestinian public opinion has tended to move toward growing support of the peace agreements and increasing opposition to violence. Of course, these attitudes are affected by events.

Progress has brought more moderation, deadlock has brought out more radical stances. But Palestinians in general are not fanatics blinded by hatred and ideology, but people who assess their own interests and prospects.

As Arafat acknowledged: "We should know that in any negotiations, you cannot get everything. Likewise, the other party cannot get everything from you."

During the pre-1996 era, despite complaints about Israeli policies, Arafat acknowledged, "On the whole, matters are moving forward... We knew from the beginning that the process in which we engaged was very difficult and involved major challenges."

After Netanyahu's election, Arafat reiterated his "commitment to peace" partly because he understood, "We have no choice."

Opening the Palestinian Legislative Council session earlier this year, Arafat repeated support for the agreements to obtain "the mutual recognition of the legitimate and political rights of both sides" in a process to achieve both peoples' interests, including Palestinian national rights, "on the basis of equality, compatibility and mutual respect."

Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), the number-two Palestinian leader and Arafat's most likely successor, told his people, as reported in *al-Hayat al Jadida*: "Israel has been in existence since 1948, whether we like it or not. We have entered into numerous Palestinian and Arab wars with Israel, and at the end it was inevitable that we should stop and ask ourselves, 'How do we deal with reality?'"

"Whatever methods the two warring parties use against each other, at the end of the day it is necessary for the two sides to sit down together at the negotiations table.... The peace process has begun, and no one, not the Arab Islamists nor the Jewish extremists, can turn back the hand of time."

Kosovo agreement underscores united role of US and NATO allies

By TYLER MARSHALL

WASHINGTON — For the second time in eight months, the US has threatened a dangerous, unpredictable dictator with military force, helped bring eleven-hour concessions to defuse an international crisis and managed to preserve an uncertain peace.

In both instances, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein appeared to know exactly how far to push the West before stepping back from the brink.

But for the US and its allies, that is where the similarities end. In other critical respects, there is a world of difference between Monday's tentative agreement with Milosevic on separatist Kosovo province and February's UN-brokered arrangement to avert a threatened military strike against Iraq.

Although it took awhile, America and Europe's major democracies finally coalesced to face Milosevic down. And the Western powers appear to have won on their terms: a cease-fire; a withdrawal of Serbian forces from the embattled province; assured access by humanitarian workers; international observers to verify Milosevic's commitments; and a pledge to negotiate a political settlement between Serbian authorities and Kosovo's predominantly ethnic

Albanian population.

By contrast, last winter's crisis with Hussein climaxed with a dubious compromise — and severe strains between the US and its NATO partners.

Of course, initial assessments of the Kosovo accord are seasoned with more than a pinch of skepticism. Even President Clinton noted that "Balkan graveyards are filled with President Milosevic's broken promises," and other White House officials were similarly cautious in their responses.

"Commitments are not compliance," national security adviser Samuel R. "Sandy" Berger warned Tuesday. "We will want to watch events in Kosovo very closely to determine whether President Milosevic makes progress toward achieving the commitments he has made." Major questions already have arisen about the mechanics of the Kosovo agreement, including how freely international observers will be able to operate, whether they might be potential hostages, and how wedded Albanian insurgents are to the agreement.

Yet even amid the uncertainty, there are important lessons to be learned from the two crises. Nearly a decade after the Cold War's end, NATO remains a credible, durable force, ready to act on "out-of-area" missions to preserve peace throughout Europe —



US national security adviser Sandy Berger: 'Commitments are not compliance.'

(AP)

although possibly not beyond.

In many respects, Kosovo was a milestone for NATO, and not just because it marked a major internal, domestic crisis.

Italy's government, which collapsed Friday, could have easily refused to back proposed airstrikes by claiming that its mandate permitted only day-to-day decisions. Instead, the Italians acted. And in Germany, the newly elected Social Democrats and their likely coalition partners, the supposedly anti-NATO Greens, said they would back any decision made by caretaker Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

"It was a very important test for

NATO," said a senior Clinton administration official.

The Europeans were motivated in part because the crisis is virtually on their doorstep. The Serbian crackdown in Kosovo presents problems for them on three levels: It is a threat to their stability, an affront to their values, and a potential source of a new influx of refugees.

"What is at stake here is the stability of Europe, and I think everyone understands that," said Dominique Moisi, deputy director of the French Institute for International Affairs in Paris. "It is an insult to human rights in the heart of Europe." In addition, Kosovo presented no larger agenda such as oil reserves, outside investments or strategic interests. In the case of Iraq, such concerns drove a wedge between France and the US and turned Russia into a real player. Russia and France have both negotiated commercial deals with Iraq that will take effect when sanctions are lifted.

Because of such differing interests and the limited support in some European nations for international ventures, many analysts express doubts about NATO's willingness to intervene in crises beyond the continent's borders.

"(Kosovo) is a way of saying that the limits to NATO are in Europe," said Frederick Bonarr, editorial director of NATO Sixteen Nations,

a publication that tracks alliance affairs.

The two crises also underscore the additional incentive created when the West believes it is acting to avert human tragedies, analysts said. In Kosovo, the United States and its European allies garnered much of their support from a popular mandate to halt human suffering caused mainly by the actions of Yugoslav leader Milosevic. Hundreds of people — including old men, women and children in recent massacres — have died since the crackdown began in February, and 300,000 civilians have fled their homes.

In the Iraqi crisis, public perceptions were more ambiguous. Although few in the West doubted that Hussein is a dangerous leader who cares less about the fate of his people than his own well-being, some argued that international sanctions were the biggest source of potential starvation in Iraq, and that threatened airstrikes posed the greatest direct threat to the Iraqi people.

"The suffering of ordinary people is a considerable driving political force," noted Douglas Johnston, a national security specialist at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "In Kosovo, there is no question who's the cause."

(Los Angeles Times)

Witch hunts on the rise in S. Africa

By GILBERT A. LEWTHWAITE

TSHILAMBA, South Africa — Violet Dangle, 42, was driven from her home 30 months ago by relatives and neighbors who accused her of being a witch growing rich from the work of zombies, as the "living dead" are known in that line of work.

Now penniless and in fear for her life, she hides in this remote village of Northern Province in a tent given to her by the local police.

Francina Sebatsana, 75, and Desia Mamafa, 55, suffered a worse fate in December. They were burned to death on pyres of wood in the village of Wydhok, in the same province, after also being denounced as witches. Eleven men, ages 21 to 50, will be tried on murder charges in November.

Since 1990, more than 2,000 cases of witchcraft-related violence, including 577 killings, have been reported in this remote, northern corner of South Africa.

This is not the only area that has seen such violence. This month, in the heartland province of Gauteng, four men were arrested after the house of Nokoneko Shingane, another alleged witch, was set afire.

Phumele Niombele-Nzimande of the Commission on Gender Equality said the violence associated with witch hunts has become "a national scourge."

A five-day conference of government and social agencies held last week in Thohoyandou, capital of

Northern Province, called for a national educational campaign to counter popular superstition.

The conference rejected outlawing witchcraft, which has millions of followers in South Africa. It favored tolerating the belief, or superstition, but not allowing it to impinge on the basic rights of others.

"In this new South Africa, there is no need seriously for a law to suppress witchcraft," said Barney Pitsoana of the South African Human Rights Commission.

"We need to say to our people, 'You are free to practice and belong, but you are not free to violate someone else's rights.'"

"At the end of the day, what is more important to me is not whether you believe in witchcraft or not... It is whether your belief in witchcraft leads you to violate my rights." The conference urged registration of traditional healers, who are often involved in starting witch hunts by identifying alleged witches.

The proposal would subject them to a code of conduct.

"People often come to me wanting me to point out who among them is a witch, and I always refuse," said Credo Mutwa, a leading traditional healer.

"A 'nanga' [traditional healer] doesn't need to point out people as witches to earn income. A good nanga makes money by strengthening people's homes against harm... by giving people medicine to rid people of sickness."

NOWHERE, perhaps, are the

ancient superstition and mystery that surround witchcraft more deeply entrenched than in South Africa's Northern Province. There, among the poorly educated rural residents, traditional healers and clairvoyants claiming supernatural powers hold broad sway. And hunger, poverty and unemployment can create jealousies that can quickly turn to anger and vengeance.

"People believe that a person can, through some sort of remote control, influence a driver of a vehicle to sleep and be involved in an accident, a pregnant mother in hospital, to have a miscarriage, or a person anywhere to be unfortunate in some way or other," said a 1996 report by the Crime Information Management Center on witchcraft in Northern Province.

But the violence is not limited to witch hunts. "Witches" have conducted ritual killings.

In pursuit of magical power, Nolezane Ernest Mabuda allegedly killed his 11-month-old baby, planning to use the body parts as *muti*, or ingredients for bewitching compounds and potions, according to the charges against him in Venda High Court.

He is charged with forcing his wife, Helen, to take part in the ritual killing in February and drink the baby's blood. She has been granted immunity in return for testifying against him. His trial is expected to end this week.

As a *nanga* in the village of Vondwe, Ndweni Colbert Ramagoma used to make a lot of

money by helping the sick and distressed.

He said he invoked only good spirits able to cure ailments such as female infertility. With the fees he earned, he could afford four wives. He owned a large house, land, four cars and a tractor. He used the tractor to help his neighbors cultivate their fields.

Today, all but one of his wives have left him. His house and vehicles have been burned because, he says, a neighbor's son kept his father awake one night chanting the name "Ramagoma."

The father accused Ramagoma of bewitching the boy. Ramagoma appealed for support from the local leader, who turned against him and organized a witch hunt.

A few days later, a crowd marched on his house. Crouching inside, he heard someone say, "We will finish up with him today."

He fled as they burned his property.

SEVERAL miles away on another night, Thari William Masithi also watched his house go up in flames. It was the best house in Mpego, the village of his birth. He built it for \$25,000 from industrial compensation for a back injury he suffered while working for a Johannesburg building contractor.

"There was no one who had a house such as this one," he said. "Even the traditional leader didn't have a house like this one."

A crowd of youths approached and accused him of practicing

witchcraft by using zombies to acquire his property.

The youths burned the house, killing Masithi's mother, who was inside. He and his wife fled with their six children. The youths who set the fire were arrested, tried and sentenced to three to five years in prison.

Violet Dangle's main accuser was her uncle. He first accused her father of using zombies to enrich himself. Then he turned on her, suggesting that she enjoyed her share of the family's wealth through witchcraft.

"We had our own water," she said. "We didn't have to go down to the river. When we wanted meat, we didn't go to the butcher. We slaughtered one of our own cattle. That's why people were so jealous."

As the accusations and threats grew stronger, the Dangle family fled their homes in Dzimalu.

"They said I was a witch. I don't know anything about witchcraft," she said. "I don't believe in zombies. Since I was born, I never saw a zombie."

Dangle, her mother and her four children sought refuge in the Mutale police station. They camped in the police compound for almost two years before moving to Tshilamba in February. She started to build a brick house beside the tent but ran out of money.

Her old house is standing, but she is afraid to return to it.

"They could burn the house down while I'm inside and kill me."

(The Baltimore Sun)

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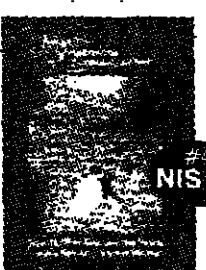
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NATO: Milosevic not keeping deal

By JEFFREY ULBRICH

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is not meeting international demands to restore peace in Kosovo, NATO said yesterday, and several officials warned him that airstrikes are still possible. NATO expects to sign a deal with Yugoslavia tomorrow that would let NATO reconnaissance planes fly over the troubled Serb province and monitor whether Milosevic is complying with his agreement to end the Kosovo crackdown. Other officials noted that NATO planes were arriving at bases in Italy.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook warned Milosevic that NATO is prepared to use force if he backs down on the agreement to withdraw forces from Kosovo, begin peace talks with separatist ethnic Albanians, and allow the monitors into Kosovo to verify compliance.

US envoy Richard Holbrooke said it's time to focus on compliance and not threats, "but the bombers are ready, and if necessary we'll return to that emergency

phase, which is not quite over." At a meeting of NATO ambassadors, it was agreed that ending his crackdown against Kosovo Albanian separatists, a NATO official said.

A number of Yugoslav forces remain dug in, including a Serb police unit. The official would not say how many troops are in Kosovo, except they far exceed the level predating the start of the violence there in March.

The agreement is designed to end the seven-month crackdown in Kosovo, an operation that has killed hundreds and left up to 300,000 people homeless. NATO gave Milosevic until Saturday morning to comply or face airstrikes.

In Geneva, the UN refugee agency said it resumed aid convoys, which were suspended Monday before Milosevic bowed to international demands. UN officials said many refugees are still hiding in the hills and forests, fearing Serb reprisals if they go home.

"We've always said that fear is the main problem," said UN

spokesman Kris Janowski. "And that needs to be altered." To build such confidence, the agreement reached this week with Holbrooke provides about 2,000 international monitors to be stationed in Kosovo. But the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is responsible for the mission, must ask its 54 member governments to provide the monitors.

OSCE officials said it could take weeks before all 2,000 are in the province.

"I'm worried that the international community will be too slow and leisurely in getting them there, and they'll take six months to get there when we need them there in six days or at least six weeks," Holbrooke told CNN.

Holbrooke said the Russians, who have opposed NATO airstrikes, also have agreed to participate in aerial monitoring.

In the meantime, American, Canadian, and European diplomats returned to begin forming the ground monitor force. The diplomats had been working as observers in Kosovo since July, but

were evacuated last week for fear of Serb reprisals if NATO attacked. Also, the US Embassy in Sarajevo authorized American officials to return to the Serb-held half of Bosnia.

In the hills about 40 kilometers northwest of Pristina, some refugees said yesterday that they don't trust Milosevic and have no confidence in the ability of unarmed monitors to guarantee their safety.

"He is lying that they are withdrawing their forces," said a 56-year-old refugee, who gave his name only as Hasan. "They are here. There are tanks dug in the ground."

Another refugee, Maher Shpiti, said unarmed monitors could not do the job. "They must be soldiers, like in Bosnia," he said, referring to the NATO peacekeeping force in that former Yugoslav republic.

In a step toward compliance, the Serb government outlined a plan for a separate parliament in Kosovo. The plan, announced late Tuesday, includes local elections in 1999. According to the statement, Kosovo Albanians would have their own parliament, judi-

ciary, and police.

The government also said elections in Kosovo would be held within nine months and invited foreign monitors to observe them.

And it offered amnesty for ethnic Albanian fighters not suspected of war crimes.

Ethnic Albanians form 90 percent of the 2 million people in Kosovo and have insisted on independence rather than regaining the autonomy Milosevic stripped in 1989.

But international leaders oppose independence for Kosovo, fearing it could lead to further instability in the tense Balkans.

In Moscow, the upper house of Russia's parliament yesterday adopted a resolution urging "the world community — especially NATO members — not to allow military intervention in Yugoslavia's internal conflict." The lower house of parliament, the State Duma, also drafted a resolution denouncing the "NATO threat to unleash a war against Yugoslavia."

Meanwhile, Romania's parliament voted to let NATO use the country's airspace in emergency situations if it launches airstrikes.

Turks hint at progress with Syria

By RALPH BOULTON

ANKARA (Reuters) — Turkey yesterday held out hopes of a peaceful settlement to its dispute with Syria over Kurdish rebels, but the military kept up pressure on Damascus.

Defense Minister Ismet Sezgin said late on Tuesday that Egyptian and Iranian mediators had suggested that "terrorist camps" on Syrian soil were being wound up and that a Kurdish rebel leader had left Syria — both key Turkish demands.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said he had seen signs of Syrian steps to address Turkey's demands, but urged caution.

"Some indications have come that Syria understands our concerns and may take action on this subject. We greeted these positively. However, this case is not one to be solved by signs and indications. One thing is at issue: the removal of foreign support to terrorism that has damaged Turkey," Anatolian news agency quoted Cem as saying.

Newspapers have carried reports, unconfirmed by the military, that Ankara would step up its campaign against Syria in about a month, after the deployment of fresh troops to the southeast.

Turkish newspapers, which only last week brimmed with warnings of war, appeared to have returned

to more common preoccupations, devoting most of their front pages to a corruption scandal.

However, the chief of Turkey's armed forces made it clear Ankara is still considering force.

"In the event that diplomacy does not solve the problem, taking the necessary measures is unavoidable," Gen. Huseyin Kivrikoglu said.

It was Kivrikoglu who set the tone of the dispute two weeks ago when he accused Syria of waging an "undeclared war" in Turkey's southeast. The military warned of armed action if Damascus did not expel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan and cease giving succor to the PKK.

Syria denies it has any link to the PKK and rejects Turkish charges that Ocalan operates from bases on Syrian territory.

Commentators and diplomats have suggested the Turkish government, prompted by the powerful military, launched its campaign two weeks ago to focus world attention on what it sees as foreign powers sustaining the conflict.

Turkish security officials said yesterday their troops had killed dozens of rebels, with the loss of 16 of their forces, one of the largest number of Turkish casualties admitted in recent months.



Fashion show

Sir Paul McCartney (center) applauds while watching the unveiling of Chloe's 1999 spring/summer collection, designed by his daughter Stella (unseen), in Paris yesterday. (AP)

Indian scholar wins Nobel prize for 'welfare economics'

By JIM HEINTZ

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Amartya Sen, a scholar from India whose work produced a new understanding of the catastrophes that plague society's poorest people, won the Nobel Economics Prize yesterday.

Sen was awarded the prestigious prize for his contributions to welfare economics, which help explain the economic mechanisms underlying famines and poverty, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

"I was surprised and quite pleased when I got the call," Sen, 64, said in New York. "But I was even more pleased when they told me the subject matter was welfare economics, a field I have long been very involved in. I am pleased that they gave recognition to that subject." Sen "has restored an ethical dimension to the discussion of vital economic problems," the Nobel citation said.

The 64-year-old economist joined Britain's Trinity College in Cambridge this year after teaching at Harvard University, among other institutions. He has studied

the Bangladesh famine of 1974 and other catastrophes in India, Bangladesh and the countries of the Sahara.

The award comes just a month after the image of last year's winners, Americans Robert Merton and Myron Scholes, was tarnished by the near-collapse of a giant hedge fund in which they were partners.

Sen works in development economics, the study of the welfare of the world's poorest people. His best-known work, detailed in his 1981 book "Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation," challenges the common view that the shortage of food is the most important explanation of famine.

Sen downplayed his Nobel achievement, saying there were many others who deserved the prize and he wished he could share it with them. Sen was in New York to attend a memorial service today for Mahbub ul Haq, a former finance minister of India.

Looking at several catastrophes, Sen has shown that "famines have



Amartya Sen

occurred even when the supply of food was not significantly lower than during previous years" without famines, the citation said.

Part of his explanation of the 1974 Bangladesh famine is that flooding throughout the country significantly raised food prices, while work opportunities for agricultural workers declined. Due to these factors, the real incomes of agricultural workers declined so much that they were disproportionately stricken by starvation.

US Congress to seek stopgap on budget bill

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The US Congress will seek a fourth stopgap measure to keep the government open through tomorrow night as it struggles to settle differences with the White House over a mammoth budget bill, congressional aides said yesterday.

The current temporary spending measure was to expire last night, and White House and congressional negotiators were to resume talks on disputes over education funding, family planning issues, the 2000 census, and other issues in the spending bill.

After meetings into Tuesday evening, both White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles and Republican leaders said they thought they could reach an agreement in another day of talks.

However, Bowles told reporters as he entered a negotiating session early yesterday that a deal

had not been struck yet over thorny differences on education spending. The White House wants \$1.1 billion spent to hire more teachers, while Republicans say states and school districts should have more control over how the money is spent.

Once both sides agree on the bill — which is expected to top \$500 billion in mandatory spending and spending controlled by Congress — the House of Representatives and Senate will have to vote on the package, which then must be signed by President Bill Clinton.

Republicans have said they will continue to use temporary spending measures to keep the government open while they try to get a budget deal. They have been using the temporary measures since the October 1 start of the new fiscal year.

SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

Speakers included MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet), chairman of the Land of Israel Front and MK Hanan Porat (National Religious Party).

Meanwhile, Mohammed Dahlan, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security in Gaza, said that an agreement is possible, if Netanyahu is willing to take a political decision.

He said it is likely that the two sides will agree on the opening of the Gaza airport, but the other issues still need to be discussed and differences need to be resolved, especially on the third redeployment and the security memorandum of understanding.

Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian minister responsible for Jerusalem, urged the PA and Israel

to stop "punishing each other" because of the actions of those wishing to destroy the peace process.

Speaking about regional cooperation at the Prime Minister's Jubilee Business Summit in Jerusalem, Hussein said that "peace provokes all those who don't believe in peace," adding that the two sides should work together to control extremists and cooperate far more to enhance the relationship.

MK Shimon Peres (Labor) told the same meeting he firmly believes this week's summit "will be crowned with a success," which he said will probably be reached next week. "There will be a renewal of optimism, but maybe this is the last easy step."

Margot Dudkevitch, Lania Lahoud, David Zev Harris and The AP contributed to this report

WORLD

in brief

Yeltsin, suffering from cold, returns to work

MOSCOW (AP) — Weakened by a cold yet animated, President Boris Yeltsin defied doctors' orders and quashed rumors he is seriously ill by showing up unexpectedly at the Kremlin yesterday.

Still, his appearance didn't silence the growing number of calls for his resignation. Hours after he returned to work, the generally pro-Yeltsin upper house of parliament fell just 11 votes short of passing a motion urging him to step down over his social welfare policies.

Whenever Yeltsin falls ill, speculation arises about his ability to govern. This time, however, the prospect of him leaving office has aroused less panic, since he has largely faded from the limelight in recent months and left his government to grapple with Russia's economic crisis.

Fugitive to be charged in Olympics bombing

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Fugitive Eric Rudolph, already accused of a deadly Alabama abortion clinic bombing, was charged yesterday with the 1996 explosion at the Olympic Games and two other Atlanta bombings. FBI officials said.

Rudolph, whom the FBI has been unable to find since January, already had been accused in the January 29 bombing of an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, that killed an off-duty police officer and seriously injured a nurse.

The officials said he would be charged in a sealed criminal complaint filed in Atlanta with the July 1996 pipe-bomb attack at the Centennial Olympic Park, which killed one person and injured more than 100 others.

Taliban pledges to free Iranian nationals

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — In an attempt to defuse tensions with neighboring Iran, Afghanistan's reclusive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar promised yesterday to release "all Iranian nationals which are still in Afghanistan."

The promise was made to the United Nations special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi who ventured into the Taliban's stronghold of Kandahar Wednesday and spent "well over three hours" in negotiations with Omar. An estimated 50 Iranians are believed to be in custody in southern Kandahar, captured in August when the Taliban overran the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Taiwan, China remain rivals despite talks

SHANGHAI (Reuters) — A senior Taiwan envoy flew into Shanghai yesterday and resumed talks with China after a five-year break but the two political rivals remained far apart.

Koo Chen-fu, head of Taiwan's semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation, struck a conciliatory note initially but officials on both sides made it clear negotiations would not be easy.

"There is not enough mutual trust," said Chang Jung-kung, a spokesman for the Taiwan side.

Wiesenthal urges Bavaria to arrest doctor

PARIS (Reuters) — The Simon Wiesenthal Center urged the German state of Bavaria yesterday to arrest a former concentration camp doctor living there and investigate him on charges of war crimes and denigrating the Holocaust.

In a letter to Bavarian Premier Edmund Stoiber, it said Hans Muench, now 87, had admitted in an interview with the magazine *Der Spiegel* that he had no regrets about conducting cruel experiments on Jewish inmates at the Auschwitz camp.

Muench, who was acquitted of war crimes after the war, also told *Spiegel* the Waffen-SS "hygienic service" where he worked had "ideal working conditions, excellent laboratory equipment and a selection of academics of world-wide reputation."

German SPD, Greens alter citizenship reforms

BONN (Reuters) — The Social Democrats (SPD) and the Greens party said yesterday they had agreed to work together on a reform of the country's citizenship laws which would eventually open the way for millions of newcomers to attain German nationality. "This (reform)...will put us on par with other European countries," Social Democrat deputy Herta and Paul Gmelin told a news briefing. The SPD and the Greens are in coalition talks after the defeat of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats in the September 27 elections. Gmelin said the proposed reforms would allow foreigners living in Germany for eight years to apply for citizenship, compared to 15 years under current laws.

Typhoon Zeb kills four in Philippines, Taiwan

TAIPEI (Reuters) — Typhoon Zeb killed at least four people in a trail of destruction across the Philippines and Taiwan yesterday, and two more are missing. Flights were cancelled, ports closed, power lines knocked out and towns plunged into darkness as the typhoon swept in from the Pacific with winds of up to 295 kph. After hitting the Philippines' main northern island of Luzon, it moved northwest towards Taiwan which it reached late in the day.

Prince Charles angry with press

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles, ever protective of his motherless sons, will complain to a press watchdog over a tabloid newspaper report yesterday that Prince Harry had to have a close marine-style haircut after an attempt to emulate a favorite soccer star's crop went wrong.

Charles' office said he will write to the self-regulatory Press Complaints Commission about the front-page story in *The Mirror*, which said 14-year-old Harry and his classmates at prestigious Eton College had tried to copy soccer player Michael Owen's short haircut.

For effect, *The Mirror* published computer-generated images of how "Harry the skinhead" might look.

ANALYSIS

Continued from Page 1

Labor, of course, promises a safety net, but even Netanyahu's circle derides that, to say nothing of the far-right.

"Labor might support Netanyahu in a vote on the agreement and even in a no-confidence vote which may ensue, but it won't support him in the day-to-day Knesset business and in the next confidence vote," said Science Minister Silvan Shalom. "Its raison d'être continues to be to bring him down. This is nothing Netanyahu can rely on."

Indeed, Labor sources explained that while the party will support the agreement, it will continue to work for early elections. The left, though, would probably not act before the three months allowed for the pullback have elapsed. Netanyahu might survive barely during that time, but not far beyond.

If Netanyahu fails to come up with an agreement, he theoretical-

ly will have to face Kahan and lesser challengers like Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Here too, the code word is reciprocity.

If Netanyahu is able to convince those who encouraged him to make a deal that failure wasn't his fault, he will escape without fatal injury. But there will have to be a clear picture of a prime minister who tried his best, who did not discard the Oslo option, but who was stymied by intransigence on the other side.

Netanyahu has managed this tightrope act for quite some time. It is conceivable that he will continue the feat a while longer.

However, US President Bill Clinton is in dire need of an achievement, which may make the acrobatics extremely difficult.

While cajoling and pressuring Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, he will also be twisting Netanyahu's arm.

No matter how Netanyahu reacts, his real troubles will begin after his homecoming.

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The man who rules Russia's sheep

Russia's economic woes have caused a statehouse anarchy that allows not-so-kosher leaders to hold their republics hostage to their whims

By DANIEL WILLIAMS

You're a hard-fisted provincial leader used to having your own way, the federal government is eyeing you for having possibly committed brutal human-rights violations, there's an economic crisis on, and you need money to stage an international chess tournament. What to do?

Take over the local branch of Russia's central bank. That's where the money is.

Russia's recent economic woes led to a kind of statehouse anarchy across the vast country. Regional governors were confronted with the collapse of the national currency, cutoffs of federal funds, and panicked people were clearing store shelves of flour, sugar and any other staple food they could get their hands on. While Moscow looked for a new government, and then that government looked for a new economic policy, several provincial leaders acted. They called states of emergency, ordered price freezes, forbade currency transactions across their borders, threatened to print their own money.

Few acted as brazenly as Kiril Ilyumzhinov, president of the Republic of Kalmykia, a dry patch of

steppe northwest of the Caspian Sea that is populated mainly by sheep and descendants of Genghis Khan's Golden Horde. His seizure of central bank funds angered the Kremlin, which immediately closed the branch and in effect ended financial dealings with Ilyumzhinov.

Ilyumzhinov, 35, already had earned an unusual amount of publicity over two controversial events: the June murder of a crusading journalist who was looking into his financial dealings and the hosting of an elaborate international chess competition in his impoverished republic.

Kalmykia typifies the management crisis that bedevils Russia. As Moscow's centralized control erodes, each region is producing its own brand of politics.

Some governments are democratic, some despotic, some are rife with corruption, some act as if they are fully independent. "Ultimately, Russia may become a contemporary Holy Roman Empire with a wide-ranging spectrum of political regimes, from antisemitic dictators in the Krasnodar region to a corrupt patriarchal regime in Moscow to liberal capitalism in Novgorod," wrote Yulia Latynina, a political analyst for *Expert* magazine.

Kalmykia, with population of only

320,000, borders on being out of control.

Ilyumzhinov rode to power in 1993 on a pledge to provide \$100 to every citizen. Two years later, he won another election unchallenged by a cowed opposition. He promised to put a cellular phone in the hands of every shepherd and turn Kalmykia into another Kuwait.

Those promises were fantasies. The republic's sheep population is shrinking as prices for wool plummet and hunger sweeps across the steppes. Shepherds are killing their sheep for meat. Oil has been discovered, but no benefits have flowed to the population. Plans to build a port on the Caspian Sea remain on paper.

Ilyumzhinov's failures might simply have been another smudge on Russia's political map except for Larisa Yudin, a crusading reporter from the newspaper *Sovetskaya Kalmykia*, which she ran. She argued that there was one person making out well in Kalmykia - Ilyumzhinov.

Yudin investigated a company named ARIS, which was the centerpiece of one of Ilyumzhinov's money-making schemes for the republic. He declared Kalmykia a tax-free zone for any company that registered here - no matter where their plants and workers were located. This

allowed the firms to avoid paying taxes at their true locations.

The fee for this service was \$1,000, according to Ilyumzhinov, \$5,000, according to critics. In any case, half the money went into the republic's coffers - though without oversight by anyone but the president - the rest went to ARIS for, well, no one exactly knows.

Ilyumzhinov says vaguely the proceeds go for "development." In June, Yudin, who for years had been the target of intimidation, was lured out of her apartment on a promise that she would be given incriminating documents about ARIS. She was stabbed repeatedly, and her mutilated body was found in a pond.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared the killing a political assassination. Police arrested four suspects, two of whom were connected to Ilyumzhinov's administration, press reports said. The suspects are awaiting trial in a neighboring province.

"The question now is whether the case will stop here, or whether the people who ordered the murder will also be prosecuted," said Yudin's husband, Gernady.

After Yudin's death, a group of social activists began to receive threatening phone calls. Before

Yudin's murder, they had been protesting a lack of funding for homeless and ill citizens of Kalmykia. Yudin had taken up their cause. One group member gave a eulogy at Yudin's funeral.

"We immediately began to get strange phone calls. Silent phone calls. Then one caller said if I continued my activities, I would be the next victim," said Lydia Dordzhieva. She fled with her two teen-age daughters to Moscow, along with a colleague, Nadezhda Golashv, her husband Vasily and their two toddlers.

The refugees asked the city of Moscow to grant them residency as refugees but were turned down. They then pleaded with the US Embassy and won refugee status and were expected to depart for the United States.

"We would have preferred to stay. Stalin drove our people out of Kalmykia, and it is a shame for us to be driven out, too," Dordzhieva said. "But we are afraid."

In Elista, human-rights controversy mingled uneasily with the buildup to the chess competition and Ilyumzhinov's struggle with Moscow over money. A newly paved highway runs between the airport and the city. Buildings along the route have been

repainted - although only along the sides facing the street. The City Chess village resembles a suburban town-house complex. At the center stands a five-story, glass pavilion where the games are played and which Ilyumzhinov wants to convert into Russia's biggest casino.

The chess players and officials who came from scores of nations for the tournament dismissed the storm surrounding their host as a local squabble that had nothing to do with them. They were more concerned about elaborate chess moves and the distractions of wind whistling through the windows where they play.

Ilyumzhinov is the president of FIDE, the international chess federation. He was a boyhood chess prodigy and has made chess a mandatory subject in school. He is unapologetic about building a flashy complex in the middle of Elista's impoverished landscape.

"It's an investment," he said. "Tourists will come here to gamble and to hunt our famous antelope."

He dismisses allegations that he had something to do with Yudin's killing as "political provocation" launched by enemies in Moscow.

"Her newspaper was practically read by no one. She could have come to interview me any time. It's strange,

she never did. I think she was a victim of political intrigue," he said in an interview.

He blames his financial struggle with Moscow on the federal government. "They owed our republic money. We had overpaid our taxes. To simplify things, I took \$2.16 million from the central bank branch here. Russia still owes us \$100 million," he said. "There was no violation. We'll find a way out through negotiations."

He steered the conversation back to chess - or at least some of the events surrounding the tournament, like the Miss Crystal Crown of Russia beauty contest. He defended the choice of the winner, who happened to be Miss Elista. "She was the tallest and the most beautiful," Ilyumzhinov said.

He invited a reporter to accompany him to a dinner with an official from St. Petersburg and "six beauties" from the contest. When the reporter mumbled something about having to call his wife, Ilyumzhinov laughed. "In Kalmykia, you can have 10 wives!"

He plans to travel soon to Las Vegas for another chess competition. Asked if he would gamble, he demurred. "It is best when taking risks to set your own rules," he said. (The Washington Post)

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Europe replays socialism

LOOKING LEFT: Socialism in Europe after the Cold War edited by Donald Sassoon. London, The New Press, 1998pp. Price not stated.

By Yosef Yaakov

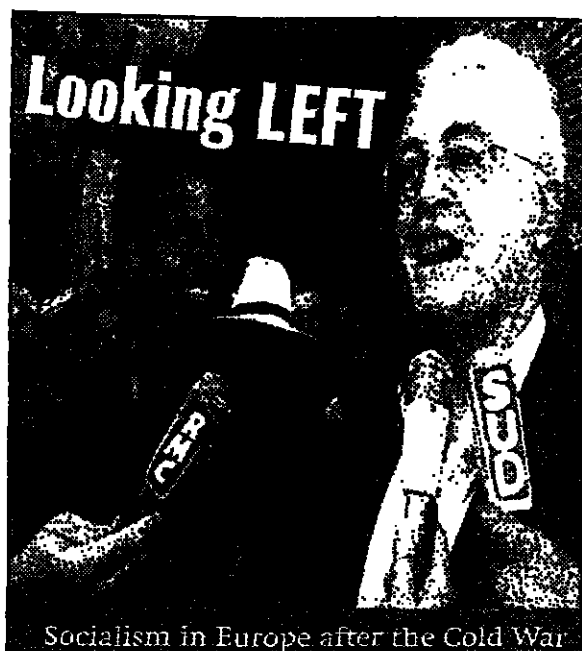
Does Europe really need socialism? Begging the question, this book goes into great detail on the state of socialism in the main European countries in recent years. Its editor, himself the author of *One Hundred Years of Socialism: the West European Left in the 20th Century*, has assembled recent descriptive chapters by a variety of commentators.

Sassoon, who teaches at the University of London, posits a conservative consensus in Europe, like that in North America, and perceives inflation as the main enemy. He speaks of a "convergence" between Right and Left as a current trend.

The editor believes political unpredictability had begun before the end of communism, with an inclination toward homogeneity, calling it the "convergence principle." The current most unstable variable, he asserts, is the fate of the Russian Federation and the other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Apart from the fate of Russia, the prospects for Europe may appear relatively tranquil and serene.

Sassoon cites the fall from favor of the "real guide" of West European socialists in power - Keynesianism. The parties of the Left, he contends, have adopted more or less overtly a defensive strategy. Working-class parties, not aiming at the modernization of capitalism but its management and the proper distribution of wealth, aimed fundamentally at full employment and the establishment of a sturdy welfare state.

In Eastern Europe, the state socialist parties have disappeared; in their stead, post-communist parties, entrenched in their respective countries, have redefined themselves as social-democratic parties. In the early '80s in Britain, the Labor Party had shifted well to the Left, adopting a policy of wide-ranging nationalization while becoming neutralist and pacifist and profoundly hostile to the European Community.



Socialism in Europe after the Cold War

Its strategic framework implied the isolation of the country from growing European and global interdependence. Britain had long been the only country in Europe where the party of the Left was the political expression of the trade union movement. This ceased to be the case as the current premier, Tony Blair, declared the party had become "pro-business." It was also the only European party that preserved, if only in its rhetoric, the aim of collective ownership as its final goal; but this, too, came to an end.

Editor Sassoon states that a resurgence of nationalism in the continent would favor the Right far more than the Left. In Eastern Europe, the post-communists are increasingly identified with anti-nationalism. British Labor has also learned the lesson of how to manage the media in its obsession with image-making.

Socialist parties in the late '90s were in govern-

ment, usually in coalitions, in virtually all the countries of the European Union, except for Spain, Ireland and pre-election Germany (where they were in power in a majority of the component Lander states). While Blair's Labor is concerned with social and economic issues, perhaps the emphasis is more on the good management of a society than on fairness or compassion. In Blair's words, "what we are about is a partnership between the public and the private sectors, rather than a battle between the two." In Italy, little is left of the Socialist Party PSI, and Italian communism changed in a way different from the path anticipated. Spanish socialists, advocating the welfare state, had been in power for over 13 years, a record for a social-democratic party when social democracy was generally acknowledged to be in retreat before the dynamism of the New Right.

There was a profound crisis of the French Left since the 1993 elections, recovering only in 1997. The Communist Party there had already collapsed. The shock was great because of the collapse of the idea or myth of radical change in favor of the "banality of reformism" in a country where, in the past, ideologies had a "quasi-religious" status.

An unexpected feature of contemporary European politics is the continued strength of the post-communist parties which emerged as the dominant parties of the Left in East Central Europe after swiftly repudiating the political system of the Soviet Bloc, especially the notion of "the leading role of the Communist Party." They all changed their names to "socialist" or "social democratic," except for the Czechoslovaks and the Romanians, who went through a "National Salvation Front" phase.

Peter Gowan of the University of North London thinks an influential group in American foreign policy circles wishes to see the post-communist parties destabilized, viewing them as the main obstacle to the consolidation of what they think democracy should be about. They regard the authoritarian populist Right in the region as far less threatening.

On the whole, this collection of essays, while highly professional and up-to-date, is for dedicated followers of modern European politics and scholars involved in research.

The real people's republic

UNDER THE RED FLAG by Ha Jin. Athens, Georgia, University of Georgia Press. 207 pp. Price not stated.

By Norm Guthartz

Westerners could not completely fathom the Cultural Revolution, peering through the smoked double glazing of incomplete media reports and their own misconceptions. The picture that emerges from the latest collection of stories by Chinese émigré writer Ha Jin is that, for all the interference in people's lives by officialdom and the radical ideology it served, neither his countrymen nor their ways changed all that much.

The setting for most of the stories is the provincial town/commune of Dismount Fort, the residents of which either labor in the fields or in local factories. But the inclination to make some extra money, secure additional comforts or realize dreams, no matter how unlikely, never faded with the arrival of communism or its youthful, ultra-orthodox Red Guards. By focusing on rural people, he does not have to wade through layers of urban affections and pressures to uncover universal desires and jealousies.

The intrusions of Mao's absolute dictatorship seemed to follow the contours of small town life - privacy was not a recognized commodity under the Communist Party, but it is also at a premium in any small community. "In Broad Daylight," which leads off the 12 items in this volume, is about the public disgrace of a prostitute known to the locals. A grandmother wants the loose woman burned publicly as in the old days, when a customer caught with her would have been beheaded.

The Red Guards who arrive from the nearest large town, 70 kilometers away, rough up the woman, force her to confess at an impromptu town meeting, and parade her through the streets while the townies hurl insults and stones at her. The prostitute's devoted husband tries to defend her, but she ridicules him before the hostile crowd; he ends up suffering the same fate as a "john," but he is his own executioner.

Shocking as this story is, its impact is all the stronger for the identity of the narrator: a neighborhood boy.

After reading a few of the stories, you almost expect all of them to have cruel or even grisly endings, with their protagonists caught in the thick, self-destructive fog of their own myopia. The most powerful is about a peasant who murders his teenage son, convinced by a fortune-teller that the youth is preventing him from realizing grandiose dreams he has begun to harbor.

However, some tales conclude with characters acquiring wisdom and acceptance of their lot in life. A childless couple find the tensions between them dissipate as they care for a small boy whose parents' jobs take them far from town. A beautiful young woman disdains her fiancé, who narrowly lost a major promotion to the suitor she'd

turned down; she realizes that her random choice between the two was the right one all along.

Ha's narrative style is taut, full of tension and sometimes detached.

His descriptions of the characters' fantasies, concerns and fears are sympathetic, though no less economic. A young widow about to be raped in her home after her husband's funeral fatally stabs the intruder, but officials believe the attacker was the local vice-chairman's nephew. That night, the woman cannot fall asleep. "It serves you right," she cursed herself. "The moment your husband was buried, you began thinking how soon you would get married again... Now you have a man and you can't get rid of him."

Without question, the regime plays the role of a major irritant in many of the pieces; however, the final story, "Decade," is the only one in which Ha indicts Maoism for the profound damage it wreaked on China. The narrator is an aspiring writer who, as a schoolgirl, watched the Cultural Revolution come and go. She returns to Dismount Fort in the hope of locating the beautiful young teacher who had tried to convey a love of esthetics to her class but who was denounced to the authorities by her pupils.

On a visit to town, the narrator is pleased to learn that the teacher had returned from the countryside where she'd been exiled to be reformed through labor. However, the young writer finds that she indeed has been reformed into a different person: a coarse, small-minded peasant bereft of all the beauty and sensibilities which had once made her special.

Often brutal, always insightful, Ha's short stories are the work of a master of the form.

Divorce, gossip, and anger

WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER: The Annulment Crisis in American Catholicism by Robert H. Vassoli. New York, Oxford University Press. 252 pp. \$25.

By D'vora Ben Shaul

From its very inception the Roman Catholic Church has refused to recognize divorce as a method of terminating a marriage, no matter what the reasons. But there is and always has been the possibility of a Vatican-issued annulment of a marriage, stating that no valid marriage ever existed; and the Church does allow for separation; and, in cases where the economic welfare of the family is at stake, as in matters of division of property, it even condones a civil divorce in the secular courts.

But in these cases of separation and even civil termination of the marriage, as far as the Church is concerned the couple remain married and any other marriage, however legal under civil law, is considered to be an illicit union. It is not hard to see that this has caused a large number of otherwise faithful Catholics to leave the Church and forgo its blessings, choosing to be seen as "living in sin" rather than face a lifetime alone. In almost every case of civil divorce where there was no annulment, the Church could count on losing one or both of the partners and probably

their children as well.

In the United States the Catholic Church granted slightly less than 600 annulments in 1998, but for the past few years it has granted some 60,000 annually. While those seeking a Church-sanctioned solution to their problem are delighted with the recent liberalization of the Annulment Procedure required by Canon law, a good many critics within the Church consider this rank hypocrisy, a Church-sanctioned dodge, or, as some say, a "Catholic divorce." One former Jesuit priest, now a professor of law, remarked cynically: "There is absolutely no divorce in Rome - and only good Catholics can get one."

Given the arbitrary conditions that often ruled for or against annulment at the Vatican, it comes as no surprise that enterprising couples wanting an annulment from the Church often resorted to a variety of ruses. Thus, in the Middle Ages, in addition to co-sanguinity (blood kinship), failure to consummate the marriage, or marriage under false pretenses (already married, no intention of producing a family, etc.), there was also an obscure Church doctrine that two people who shared the same godparents were "godsibs" or commonly "godsibs" and were barred from marriage to one another. Many couples in this period, seeing no hope of getting an annulment on other grounds, hired some elderly woman of the parish to start to spread the "godsib story"

about them. When this tattle reached the ears of Church authority, an annulment could be arranged. In time this art of spreading "the godsib" became "to spread gossip." The Church subsequently cancelled this ruling and godsibs were allowed to marry.

Henry VIII tried every possible ruse to get an annulment from his queen, Anne Boleyn, and when the pope refused he had her beheaded for treason. This same papal refusal eventually led to Henry's break with Rome and the establishment of the Church of England.

The justification of a good many of the more modern annulments - and the one that has most infuriated Church critics - is based on the argument that one or other of the parties was not mature enough to make a lifetime commitment, and therefore the marriage is null and void. Critics point out that some people might well be termed immature at any age, and that unless they are mentally deficient their other contracts are binding.

But some of the specialists in Canon law, most of them Jesuit priests trained in both secular and Canon law, have argued otherwise. They ask: "Why does the Church require a young woman wanting to become a nun to spend a number of years of postulancy and novitiate training and then to take only temporary vows for a few years before being allowed to make the lifetime commitment of permanent

vows? Why must a priest spend years in the seminary before being ordained and allowed to take permanent vows? Why does the Church hold that two young people barely out of their teens, swept up in their youthful passions, are more capable of taking a vow for life than is a would-be nun or priest who is usually well on into his or her 20s before being allowed to do so?"

The book is well written but, like Sheila Rausch Kennedy's book *Shattered Faith*, it deals only with the anger and disappointment of the dispossessed, whose marriage was annulled against her or his will. Kennedy's book was an angry protest at the fact that her former husband, Congressman Joseph Kennedy, got an annulment of their marriage which had been sanctioned and performed by the Church, had lasted 13 years, and produced two sons. Vassoli is a retired professor of social sciences and a lifetime student of human behavior. He was incensed when his estranged wife applied for and received a papal annulment of their marriage. One would have wished for something a little more balanced than this angry diatribe. But although transparently accusatory and one-sided, it is still an interesting read. Many people who are interested in this subject are still waiting for a book by a serious and unbiased writer who can present all sides of the dispute.

BOOK BYTES

Who is Curtis Brown? The short answer, he is Hitler's literary agent. Brown, according to English press reports, flew to Munich in 1939 to sign up *Mein Kampf*. Ever since then, the publishers Hutchinson have been funneling the royalties into a secret fund, reportedly administered by none other than Curtis Brown. Whether the royalties remain in the fund or are channeled into a receptive pocket is a question the publisher won't answer.

CLUB XXI, Russia's first book club, has 750,000 members, and is currently dispatching 20,000 orders a day. Launched last year, the Moscow-based club is aiming for a membership of 1.5 million and sales of \$40 million by the end of this year.

PAULINA Simons spent the first 11 years of her life in Leningrad, where her father was jailed for political offenses. On his release the family got an Israeli visa, but eventually ended up in New York. Simons's first husband took her to England, where she had a daughter. The marriage broke up, and Simons returned to NYC, wrote her first novel, and met her second husband, with whom she has had two sons.

The family recently relocated to the flaming heat of Texas as Simons was nearing the end of her fourth pregnancy. The combination of heat and pregnancy shaped the thematic skeleton for her third completed novel, *Eleven Hours* (Flamingo). The story's lead character, Didi, nine months pregnant, is kidnapped by a madman and driven across the scalding Texas plains. Didi's sufferings are all too graphically spelled out, as is the fact that she is a deeply committed Christian. These two factors, contends the author, have caused

Hollywood producers to shy away from buying the rights to the book. Simons holds that fundamentalism is a "Texan characteristic." She says, "My husband and I are regarded as heathens in Texas. It's not that we don't believe in God - we do, very much. We just don't go to church on Sunday that often." All of which makes one wonder what became of her father's Israeli visa.

THE GERMAN art book publisher Koenemann, recently opened its first American office in New York. CEO Ralf Daab says the company plans to publish about 100 new titles a year in the US. Among the first of the new books will be a quirky photo album provisionally titled *Drive-By Shootings* by David Bradford, a New York cab driver. It was a case of "hail fellow well met." Daab himself discovered Bradford when he hailed his taxi.

BEETHOVEN'S HAIR (Broadway), a curious non-fiction work slated to come out in the year 2000, plots the progress of some 582 strands of the maestro's hair. At the time of the composer's death, a young Jewish musician yanked out a bank of Beethoven's wild mane by the roots. His descendants eventually handed over the lock to some Danes in return for their helping the family to escape from Nazi Germany. More recently the hair came under the auctioneer's hammer at Sotheby's, and was sold for \$7,300 to two Beethoven fanatics, Alfredo Guevara and Ira Brilliant. Brilliant has his own Web site (www.music.sjsu.edu/Beethoven/), where you can see a picture of the hair, currently undergoing extensive DNA analysis for clues to the cause of Beethoven's death. The world rights to the book are rumored to hover around a handsome six-figure sum.

David Bruzner

The New York Times BESTSELLERS

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. Bag of Bones by Stephen King. (Doubleday \$28.95) A series of terrifying events besets a bestselling novelist.
2. The Loop by Nicholas Evans. (Delacorte \$25.95) A biologist faces professional and romantic problems while trying to protect wolves in Montana.
3. Rainbow Six by Tom Clancy. (Putnam \$27.95) John Clark, heading an international task force, investigates terrorist incidents in Europe.
4. I Know This Much Is True by Wally Lamb. (Regan Books/HarperCollins \$27.50) A troubled man must care for his schizophrenic twin.
5. Tell Me Your Dreams by Sidney Sheldon. (Morrow \$26) Three women suspected of committing brutal murders undergo a bizarre trial with a curious defense.
6. Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden. (Knopf \$26) The life of a young woman growing up in Kyoto who has to reinvent herself after World War II begins.
7. The Reef by Nora Roberts. (Putnam \$23.95) Searching for a jeweled amulet in the depths of the Caribbean, a woman deals with mysteries and romance.
8. Summer Sisters by Judy Blume. (Delacorte \$21.95) Two women from different backgrounds come of age together on Martha's Vineyard.
9. By the Light of My Father's Smile by Alice Walker. (Random House \$22.95) The members of a black American family experience spiritual and sexual enlightenment in the Sierras of Mexico.
10. Field of Thirteen by Dick Francis. (Putnam \$24.95) Thirteen stories of suspense that revolve around the horse-racing world.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$19.95) A sports writer tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor, who was near death's door.
2. The Death of Outrage by William J. Bennett. (Free Press \$20) A former secretary of education takes a critical view of the Clinton presidency.
3. The Ten Commandments by Laura Schieffelin and Stewart Vogel. (Crown/HarperCollins \$24) The radio psychologist and a rabbi discuss the contemporary significance of the Ten Commandments.
4. His Bright Light by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte \$25) The novelist recalls the life of her son Nick Traina, who suffered from manic depression and died at 19.
5. Lindbergh by A. Scott Berg. (Putnam \$30) The checked life of Charles A. Lindbergh.
6. A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson. (Broadway \$25) A journalist hikes the Appalachian trail.
7. A Pirate Looks at Fifty by Jimmy Buffett. (Random House \$24.95) The singer-songwriter reflects on his half-century of life.
8. High Crimes and Misdemeanors by Ann H. Coulter. (Regan Books/HarperCollins \$24.95) A lawyer states the case for the impeachment of President Clinton.
9. Pure Drive by Steve Martin. (Hyperion \$19.95) Humor plays by the actor, comedian and writer.
10. Conversations with God: Book 1 by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95) The author addresses questions of love, good and evil.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood by Rebecca Wells. (Harper Perennial \$13.50) Three generations of Southern women.
2. What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day by Pearl Cleage. (Avon \$12) Returning to her rustic hometown, a woman finds many changes - and romance.
3. Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier. (Vintage \$13) A wounded Confederate soldier journeys home toward the end of the Civil War to meet an old love.
4. Special Delivery by Danielle Steel. (Dell \$6.50) Romance comes to a pair who once disliked each other.
5. Flood Tide by Clive Cussler. (Pocket \$7.99) Dirk Pitt in pursuit of a notorious Chinese smuggler.
6. One True Thing by Anna Quindlen. (Dell \$6.99) A woman who cared for her fatally ill mother is charged with killing her.
7. And Then You Die by Iris Johansen. (Bantam \$6.99) On assignment in Mexico, a photojournalist copes with terror and romance.
8. The Cobra Event by Richard Preston. (Ballantine \$7.99) A terrorist uses a genetically designed virus to attack New York.
9. Little Affairs Everywhere by Rebecca Wells. (Harper Perennial \$13) Earlier experiences of the Ya-Ya sisterhood.
10. Blood Work by Michael Connelly. (Warner \$7.50) A retired FBI agent undertakes to solve the murder of an alluring woman's sister.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. The Starr Report by (Pocket \$5.99; Forum/Prima \$9.99; Public Affairs \$10) The findings of the independent counsel.
2. The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger. (Harper Paperbacks \$6.99) The story of the nor'easter of 1991.
3. Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$7.99) A journalist's account of his ascent on Mt. Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
4. The Millionaire Next Door by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Pocket \$14) An analysis of the lives of wealthy Americans.
5. Anatomy of the Spirit by Carolyn Myss. (Three Rivers \$14) Holistic medicine.
6. Under the Tuscan Sun by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13) A celebration of the Italian countryside.
7. The Seat of the Soul by Gary Zukav. (Firestone/S&S \$12) How daily activities can be enhanced by feelings of meaning and purpose.
8. Citizen Soldiers by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone/S&S \$16) The US Army from Normandy to Germany's surrender.
9. All Over But the Shoutin' by Rick Bragg. (Vintage \$14) From poor white in Alabama to Pulitzer-Prize-winning reporter - a memoir.
10. A Child Called 'It' by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$9.95) The story of a man who survived his mother's abuse.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
2. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff... and It's All Small Stuff by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95) How to enjoy life more and contribute to the world we live in.
3. Protein Power by Michael R. Eades. (Bantam \$6.50) Two physicians offer a low-carbohydrate plan for losing weight.
4. Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger. (Health Communications \$12.95) Inspirational stories.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom by Suze Orman. (Crown \$23) Practical and spiritual steps for managing money.
2. If Life Is a Game, These Are the Rules by Cherie Carter-Scott. (Broadway \$15) Ways to achieve a fulfilling life.
3. Sugar Busters by H. Leighton Steward et al. (Ballantine \$22) A diet designed for losing weight, increasing energy and combating disease.
4. In the Meantime by Iyanla Vanzant. (Simon & Schuster \$23) Ways to find what you truly need, particularly "the love that you want."

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Economic Jubilee

What is striking about this week's Jubilee Business Summit is that it was not striking. True, it is not everyday that 1,200 top business leaders gather in Jerusalem, but by now the idea of investing in Israel is not a novel one. When then-finance minister Pinhas Sapir organized the first major international business conference in Israel just after the Six Day War, the Israeli economy was of interest mainly as an object of charity, rather than investment. Today, large investment houses routinely hold conferences here, and Israel is considered a breeding ground for cutting-edge technology companies.

We tend to take our accomplishments for granted, but it is remarkable to dwell for a moment upon what Israel has wrought economically, despite its statist economic legacy and its quarrelsome neighborhood. In 1950, 1.3 million Israelis produced a GDP of about \$4 billion in current values. By 1983, Israel's GDP was \$25 billion, and it has since quadrupled to \$100 billion. At \$17,000, Israel's per capita GDP is about at the level of Finland and New Zealand. When adjusted for the cost-of-living (using the measure of Purchasing Power Parity), Israeli incomes ranked just behind Switzerland and ahead of Japan in 1995.

In addition, the currently stagnant growth rate masks the inherent potential in the economy. Although the high-tech sector only employs a fraction of the labor force, it accounts for two-thirds of Israel's industrial output, and 80 percent of its industrial exports. It is this sector, of course, that has attracted the most foreign investment, which, according to Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, reached \$3.7 billion last year, a 60% increase since 1995.

Until about a decade ago, the "investors" that came here were cajoled by the government into establishing a low-tech factory with massive government assistance, and even then it was more of a contribution than an investment.

Today, Israel's main selling point to investors is not through the heart-strings, but the balance sheet. The attempt to portray Israel as an "island of stability" at a time of global economic turmoil is exaggerated, but Israel does have impressive fiscal accomplishments that are making their mark.

As Neeman points out, Israel did bring the budget deficit down to 2.8% of GDP in 1997, and is aiming to reduce it further to 1.5% by 2001. Inflation, too, has been reduced drastically and could be cut further in the same time frame. Privatization has accelerated, and should continue to increase in the next few years.

Still, the positive steps that have been taken will not alone be sufficient to propel the economy toward the goal breezily set by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of doubling per capita GNP in the near future. The government's share in the economy has been brought down from a staggering 72% in the early 1980s to about 55% today, but that figure is still much higher than in the US, or even than the European average.

Privatization does contribute to lifting the government's heavy hand off the economy, but the more daunting task of shrinking government spending has barely begun. Neeman's tax reform proposals have been met with much skepticism, but even he is not proposing to reduce the total tax burden, only marginal tax rates. The psychology of paternalistic government is highly entrenched, and not yet the subject of real debate.

Unlike most developed democracies, in Israel economic ideologies are not a discernible dividing line through the political landscape. Neither major party, nor any of the smaller parties, proudly waves the flag of low taxes, limited government, and expanded economic freedom.

When it comes to factors that could create a real breakthrough in restoring economic growth, movement in the peace process is usually cited as the main hope. The Oslo Accords were, in fact, a major impetus for the dramatic increase in foreign investment since 1993. The recent decision not to hold another full-blown Mideast economic this year—following those in Casablanca, Rabat, Cairo, and Qatar—is not a good sign for the peace component of economic growth.

If the peace process were to pick up steam, a similar investor's conference next year might be even more successful. Being an "island" in turbulent economic waters may be a good thing, but isolation, even from the relatively less important regional markets, detracts from economic growth.

But even if the peace process were swimming along, it would simply remove an impediment whose absence is taken for granted in developed economies.

Though the economic impact of advancing the peace process is normally seen through the eyes of the foreign investor, the more important effect may be on the maturity of the economic debate within Israel. Peace may be a prerequisite for robust growth, but it is not a competitive advantage within the developed world. The ultimate impact of peace will be when economics eclipses security in the political debate.

Why redeploy?

AARON LERNER

If Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu folds at the Wye Plantation summit which opens today, the commission of inquiry which will no doubt be formed later to assign blame for the disaster spawned by the redeployment, won't have to search hard.

"After the second redeployment, a dangerous reality will be created in the territories. This will require the construction of bypass roads and the provision of a billion dollars worth of protection to the settlements and soldiers."

No, that's not one of the National Religious Party ministers. It isn't even Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, a fervent supporter of the further redeployment, said this at the Tuesday cabinet meeting.

How much time will be available to construct Mordechai's missing bypass roads and billion-dollar worth of protection for the settlements and soldiers? A year? It's more like until next week.

The entire redeployment is supposed to take 12 weeks and, according to the draft of the American proposal, Israel is to redeploy from 9.1 percent of the territory in the first two weeks of the redeployment.

Mordechai's support for carrying out what he himself terms a dangerous withdrawal, without the vital protection in place, is tantamount to jumping from a plane and then ordering a parachute.

That's not to claim that Mordechai's estimate of the efficacy of such measures is reliable. After all, he was adamant that the security provisions in the Hebron Agreement were adequate.

Even if President Bill Clinton and Netanyahu manage to convince Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat to honor his obligations, let there be no illusions as to how low Palestinian compliance will continue.

Once Arafat has total control of 18.3% of the territory (not to mention at least civil control over 40%), all bets are off. A unilaterally declared Palestinian state in isolated islands of 3% of the territory sounds like a joke even to the Palestinians. The redeployment which Netanyahu

supports would change all that. And yet, Netanyahu fails to come up with any kind of reasonable explanation for this redeployment. Instead, he offers excuses which, at best, are an insult to our intelligence. I say "at best" because if he also believes then we are in even worse shape.

Changing 15.2% of the territory from Area B to Area A is just a matter of "changing the designation of an area already given to the Palestinian Authority," Netanyahu explained at the Tuesday cabinet meeting.

Really? Israeli security forces have free reign in Area B. On occasion, Palestinian police stationed in Area B have even been confined to barracks so as not to interfere with Israeli security operations.

A far cry from the situation in Palestinian-controlled Area A, where IDF forces are effectively barred—hot pursuit or otherwise.

WHY then is Netanyahu doing this? Why isn't he, as Sharon suggested, shackling himself with a cabinet decision? Not that a cabinet decision would really "shackle" the prime minister. After all, shortly after setting his government's "Basic Policy Guidelines" back on June 18, 1996, he acted to undermine the explicit formulation that predicated negotiations—let alone any action on the ground—"on the condition that the Palestinians fulfill all their commitments fully."

Netanyahu has a poll. Not one of those cheap 500 respondent polls. We're talking about a poll of thousands of adult Israelis—both Jews and Arabs. And the prime minister explains, according to the poll, he has better reelection chances if early elections result from carrying out a redeployment than elections ensured as a result of not executing the withdrawal.

Be it from me to claim the expertise of American political guru Arthur Finkelstein, but I do have some experience with Israeli polls. At best, polls can give a reliable indicator as to how eligible voters feel—and that's a far cry from how the actual voters do.

The View From the East

DAUD KUTTAB

A Palestinian wish list

As a journalist, I have always been fascinated by high power summits held in secluded locations. The press is usually kept away from these meetings for fear that early exposure of this or that idea, before a deal is struck, can ruin the plan.

Despite this reality, I have decided to write a Palestinian wish list. Although the press will be kept out, hopefully through electronic mail or fax, the message will get through to the leaders, or at least to some of their aides.

To compile a Palestinian wish list for today's Wye summit, I conducted my own unscientific poll of Palestinians. In response to my question: "What would you like to see coming out of the summit?" three basic trends emerged.

First, Palestinians I spoke to did not seem very optimistic about a positive result coming out of the Washington meeting. The level of cynicism and skepticism is so high that people would say something like "even if they do agree and sign, we doubt that such agreement would be implemented."

Former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement "no dates are sacred" still rings loud. Netanyahu will sign because he is forced to, and maybe he will withdraw from one percent, and then find an excuse not to complete the remaining portions of the staged withdrawal, was a common response from many in this category.

The second group of responses focused on issues of daily life. Freedom of travel, freedom to live and move in any part of the Palestinian territories, to leave and come back to the country whenever they wished, was the primary response of many in this category.

Ayman, a colleague of mine from Gaza, who has been living in Ramallah for more than 10 years, wished his family would have the chance to see his baby son, Ghassan, now more than a year old and Haniya, Ayman's wife, have not been able to travel to Gaza. And grandparents, uncles and aunts from Gaza have not been allowed to come to the West Bank.

Raed, another Gazan working in the West Bank, has nightmares over the possibility of being trapped in the Strip during closures due to the need to go back there every month to renew his permit.

For Ayman and Raed, implementation of the safe passage way, agreed to back in 1994, would be a wish come true.

Abu Ashraf, a watchman at Al Quds University's al Birah campus, has a wish which seems much simpler: "I would love a chance to go to Jerusalem."

The holy city, less than 10 kilometers from al Birah, has been barred to Palestinians since 1993. A special permit, which requires a valid reason, a long wait and the mercy of the Israeli authorities, is needed to enter the city; whether to pray, get treatment, to shop or simply to visit.

SURPRISINGLY, a third group of Palestinians expressed opposition to the idea of the summit. President Arafat should not go to Washington, was a typical response. They will keep him locked up at Wye Plantation until he, being the weak party, makes all the concessions, they said.

Others in this category spoke of the need for a general Palestinian reassessment of the entire peace process. Why do we keep running after mirages? Is it not clear that nothing of substance will come out of the present government?

This arbitrary group wants the Palestinian president to concentrate on internal issues. Improve the Palestinian situation, rebuild Palestinian national unity and wait for the right time and the right partners before going back to negotiations.

When I asked one prominent patriotic Palestinian lawyer about next year's statehood declaration, he laughed. A Palestinian state is an Israeli demand, he said.

Netanyahu's pretended opposition only includes vague unspecified threats, he continued. They want us to have a weak and divided

state. I prefer not to have such a state and remain as we are, rather than give the world the impression that we have a state, when in fact it will simply legitimize the apartheid situation that is existing now, the lawyer concluded.

Thinking this was a fluke response, I spoke to another friend who participated in the negotiations, and he gave a similar response.

"What do we get from the kind of state that they will allow us to have?" he asked. An elected representative to the Palestinian Legislative Council was also very critical of the present process.

Look what is happening in Hebron, check out Israeli settlement policy and give me one reason for us to be optimistic about the upcoming summit. Yasser Arafat should not go to Washington, she told me point blank. Nothing good for Palestinians will come out of it.

As I tried to remember all the people I spoke to, I realized that all of them have been supporters of the peace process. None is radical, I spoke to no Hamas supporter and no one I spoke to talked about a military solution.

The leaders meeting in Washington must pay close attention to this silent majority. Genuine progress, with tangible results, is needed if these present doubters will be persuaded to return to the position of supporting the peace process.

And what are Israelis choosing to do with the sacred trust they hold? Either they smother it with concrete, or they hire it out to others to plow, sow, and harvest for them.

A. D. Gordon envisioned a national bond with the soil to be created by physical labor. The bond he pleaded for has been forged, but not by the people he foresaw. Arabs, Mervin Benvenisti has pointed out, have become the last Zionists.

But possession is still nine-tenths of the law. Last week I found myself stopped at an intersection next to a busload of Palestinian farm laborers. I tried to catch the eye of the woman in the window nearest mine, wanting to imagine what she was thinking—and what she would think of me. I looked at her for as long as the light stayed red, but she refused to meet my gaze. The full weight of her kerchiefed head leaned heavily against the glass, and she seemed to be staring off into the distance, enshrouded in her own thoughts. For a split second as the light turned, I got a closer look: She was fast asleep.

Hot tips

DAVID SCHENKEL

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

After Dark

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KOSOVO PRECEDENT

Sir,—Your editorials calling for NATO armed action against Serbia because of its attempt to stamp out the KLA terrorists' attempt to take over Kosovo may yet be cited against Israel as justification for international military action to establish a terrorist Palestinian state here.

I would refer the writer to the Jerusalem Post reports of Iranian, Islamic Jihad and Moslem Bosnian involvement in training and equipping the KLA. During the last few weeks, 34 mutilated bodies of Serb civilians were found near the Kosovo villages of Klecka and Glodjane. The Klecka massacre was even condemned by US Ambassador Christopher Hill, but there was no publicity in Western media and no threats to use violence against the Albanians.

I forecast a US attempt to detach Kosovo from Serbia already before the Dayton Agreement was signed. It is part of a consistent State Department policy of abetting Moslem territorial expansion and/or suppression of Christian minorities in all parts of the globe—from the Balkans, Lebanon and Nigeria (remember Biafra!) to East Timor.

YOHANAN RAMATI

Jerusalem.

INNOVATIVE STORE

Sir,—The suggestion that Gush Shalom open its own store in reaction to the Yeha Zeh Kan store in Jerusalem (Letters, September 12) is a remarkable one. What an innovative concept to make available to peace-loving Israelis products made by Palestinians, Israeli Arabs, and Arabs from other countries.

Conceivably, such a store might wind up carrying sundry items such as textbooks used in Palestinian schools, replete with shocking references to "the Zionist entity," videotapes of Yasser Arafat's inflammatory rhetoric, and Palestinian children's programs encouraging young viewers to become suicide bombers. An assortment of Arabic newspapers in which Israelis and Jews are routinely vilified could also be at hand. Here, one could buy Palestinian

maps identifying major Israeli cities, such as Haifa, as "settlements," all of Israel as Palestine, and official tourist guides that negate just about all of Jewish history.

Outside the store might be a used car lot where Israelis could buy back tens of thousands of hastily remodeled vehicles and assorted spare parts without tax! The decor of this store might feature beautifully framed copies of the Palestinian Charter, its multiple references to Israel's destruction lentered in elegant calligraphy. The possibilities are, sadly, endless. Such a store could be a real eye-opener. I wonder if Yeha Zeh Kan would buy stock in it.

D'VORAH WEISS

New Jersey.

LEAVE SARA AT HOME

Sir,—In the October 12 issue of the international edition of *Newsweek*, there is a picture of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his wife, and two children sitting in Central Park surrounded by 12 security guards.

For the new year, I suggest that since Netanyahu is so afraid or paranoid regarding his and his family's safety that he:

1. Stop traveling outside of Israel so much, and
2. When he must travel, he leave his wife and children home.

SEYMOUR BRODSKY
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On October 15, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that despite the Mandatory Government's refusal to grant a permission to hold a demonstration protesting Jewish immigration, a crowd of about 1,500 to 2,000 Arabs attempted to move in a form of a procession through the Old City. The police had dispersed the demonstration. Eleven men were detained in hospital for minor injuries, including five policemen.

1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the State Council adopted the government's first 7,800,000 Israeli pounds budget for the second half of 1948 by 28 votes for, with three Revisionists voting against and one General Zionist abstaining.

All men in Jerusalem between 18 and 48 who were not otherwise exempted were ordered to report for essential defense works.

ed that 656 Israelis had lost their lives in the first eight days of the war. There were about 2,000 wounded in hospitals. The number of enemy prisoners taken by the IDF was 414, including 58 officers.

The Egyptians lost some 200 tanks in an attempt to breach Israeli defences along the Suez Canal, while Israeli columns were reported to be some 40 km. southwest of Damascus.

Alexander Zvielli

سكنا من الارض

Weekender

American rhythm in Hebrew

Singer/songwriter Coby Recht returns home with a sackful of rhythm and blues

By SHAI TSUR

If you mention the name Coby Recht to the average Israeli under 40, chances are that you will get a blank stare. While most people may not recognize the Israeli singer, they will probably recognize some of his work. Songs such as "Lazy Reggae," "Wish Now," and "Against the Heart" have always been staples of local radio. In addition, Recht wrote "Go With Her," one of the biggest Israeli hits of the early 1970s, for singer Ilana Rubina. Recht has spent most of his life in show business. In 1960, when he was 13, he appeared in the Hebrew production of *Julius Caesar*. After the Six Day War, he made a name for himself as the soloist for the IDF's Central Command troupe, which had a number of popular hits. Over the years he has appeared in films (the 1977 Israeli classic *The Band*), produced movie soundtracks, and wrote the score for the 1980 film musical, *The Apple*.

Despite this varied resume, Recht describes himself as a singer/songwriter.

One of the reasons that Recht is not as well known as his songs may be the fact that he spent much of the last quarter century working overseas. He released numerous albums in Holland and France in the 1970s, and spent most of the 1980s in Los Angeles working with Moshe Golan's film company.

In 1991, Recht decided to move back to Israel permanently and resume his career. "The product over there was good," he says, "but after 15 years I really missed this place." Since his return, Recht has released two studio albums. Most recently, he has put out a compilation disc.

The Best of Coby Recht collects nearly 20 tracks from Recht's 30-year career. He says that the disc is an interim summary of his career and a way to acquaint himself with the Israeli public before the release of his next album. He does not, however, consider it a comeback.

"I don't think that's accurate," he says. "Even when I wasn't here they still played my songs. I mean, it came about that I came back. But I don't feel that way."

More than anything else, he says, the compilation closes an era for him. The disc opens with a new song, a quiet, haunting track called "Kol Nidrei." The song was written by Sasha Argov, one of the most distinguished figures in Israeli music, a month before the composer died in 1995.

Recht began his solo career in 1968 with the album *Songs of Sasha Argov*. "Sasha made my career," he says. The two met for the first time when Recht sang with the IDF's Central Command troupe. Argov composed several of the songs in the troupe's successful 1967 revue.

"He came to the general rehearsal [for the revue] and I met him backstage," Recht recalls. "He said he had been looking for a voice like mine for four years."

Recht kept up his friendship with Argov over the years. When

he decided to put together the compilation record he heard "Kol Nidrei" and decided that it would be a good way to pay his final respects to the man who started him on his musical career. "It does in fact close a circle for me," he says. "It's also a fitting tribute because it is one of Sasha's most beautiful songs."

Argov is considered the grand old man of Israeli music. In the course of Recht's career, however, he also worked with another excellent musician — George Clinton, the wildly colorful godfather of American funk music. Recht says that the transition from Argov to Clinton aptly sums up his personal musical identity.

"When I was growing up in Israel you could only hear songs in English on Radio Ramallah," he recalls. "I would hear Dion, Sam Cooke, Cliff Richard, and I really connected with it. We had American neighbors who would help transcribe the lyrics for me. I hardly listened to Hebrew music."

Recht says that in retrospect, the few Hebrew songs which touched a chord in him were Argov's. And it was Argov who inspired him to start writing his own music.

Years later, when Recht started working with Clinton, the funk legend turned him on to American rhythm and blues, which eventually became one of his true musical loves. This love, however, proved to be something of a drawback when he returned to Israel and released his 1993 album, *Against the Heart*. "It was a very American record," he says. "I saw how Israelis just cannot connect to American music."

Recht released six singles from the album, all of which got heavy radio airplay. Sales of the record, however, proved lackluster. Recht says that he asked friends why.

"Shlomo Artzi told me that the sound is too wide for this country," he recalls. "This was just as I came back to Israel and it really depressed me because I sat for years in the best studios in Los Angeles and London gaining experience. And what I really liked was this width [of sound]. Here the situation is fairly the opposite."

People told him that if he had sung "Against the Heart" in English the album would have performed much better here. "The vocals were in Hebrew and the sound and the production were very American," he says. "I was told that it was intimidating for people to hear something American in Hebrew."

Recht says that he learned a lesson from the experience. He plans to record his next album with a more minimalist production. While his last two albums included mostly songs he wrote while living in LA, the next record consists of material written since his return. While the subject matter is similar, he says the sound is a little different.

"There are a lot more ballads on this album. In general, it is very calm. There is still a lot of R&B in it, because this is imprinted deep inside me. Yet it is very Israeli."



Recht's musical identity has been shaped by the late Israeli superstar Sasha Argov, and by American godfather of funk George Clinton.

Recht's current return to the musical limelight comes at a time when the Israeli music establishment appears to be in the throes of nostalgia for the music of the early 1970s. Albums are being reissued and television and radio specials look back at the days when the country's hits were determined in annual musical competitions. "Nostalgia comes in cycles," Recht says. "Every few years it happens. I think with [Israel's]

50th anniversary it has certainly happened. I've mainly been listening to things from the '70s, which was the most creative time here. It was the most fertile period when the prettiest songs were written. There is a longing for good Israeli music."

"The magic of the early '70s for me was the beginning of creativity here. I miss the immediateness of the writing and the recording and the level of spontaneity."

Recht says that the power of the songs also came out of their simplicity. He says that personally he has nostalgia more for places than for time periods.

"Any place where I am, I miss other places," he says. "Right now I miss Paris. Once I would pack my bags and move in pursuit of my nostalgia."

However, Recht says he is now older and wiser. For the moment he intends to stay where he is.

rounds off the day. In between are the classics *Dreams* and *Madadayo*.

Jerusalem

English-speakers are spoiled in Jerusalem this weekend. Tonight Mercat Hamagshimim Hadassah (7a Dor v'Dorshav, German Colony) holds a comedy night with lots of comedians in English. The event is geared towards immigrants, potentials and regular old Israelis. Call (02) 561-9233 for details.

For those who never managed to leave their sofas during the holidays, take a tour today with the World Union for Progressive Judaism which is hosting a *Mystical Trip to Galilee*, also an English event. Call (02) 620-3466 for details.

And to wrap up the Anglo fiesta, Saturday night heralds the opening of *Hay Fever* by Noel Coward. Performed by the Jerusalem English Speaking Theater (JEST), at the Gerard Behar Theater starting at 8:30 p.m. Director Bruce Oppenheimer may be contacted for tickets at (02) 586-5416, or at JEST offices: (02) 642-0908. And for a little classical culture, the Khan Theater is showing *Measure for Measure* tonight at 8:30.

Points Beyond

Israeli folk-dancing fever is spreading around the country: tonight it strikes Rehovot, where horas can be found at the Faculty of Agriculture (Hebrew University) starting at 7:30. Call (02) 533-2120 for information.

Beersheba has several drama offerings this evening. *Black Moon* plays at Beersheba Theater, starting at 8:30; and Beit Lessin's *The Venetian Twins* will be performed at Heichal Hatarbut tonight. Call (07) 627-1065 for information.

And after the weekend has come and gone, never fear, the festivities are just beginning: In Netanya, the second annual Shirat Hayamim begins on Monday with a massive amount of choral music. Scores of choirs will be performing in an international competition (through the 22nd), including the best of Israel's children's and adult groups. Call (09) 862-1130.

'Fruits de mer' in Tel Aviv

By SOME LEMOR

The seafood bar and restaurant Vongoly definitely possesses the "New York state of mind." From the huge glass window to the heavy black wooden tables, everything about Vongoly screams out style.

It is the perfect place for those seeking a fresh lobster, or who have a penchant for imported French Crûse oysters. The restaurant itself is one large room with a geometric design. Each of the nine tables is exactly the same distance apart. On each table sit round silver salt and pepper shakers and a round glass ashtray (which the waiters change every time you so much as ash your cigarette), that complement the huge round mirror on the wall and an abstract circular chandelier.

Apart from the main area, Vongoly has three bar-height tables that host up to nine patrons each, and a black wooden bar that can seat up to eight. The wall behind the bar is covered from floor to ceiling with cubes that hold at least 50 kinds of wine.

Two tables are set pleasantly off to the side for a more intimate atmosphere. Buigundy sofas and chairs set off the black hardwood floors and tables beautifully.

To the right of the drinks bar is the seafood bar, where all sorts of *fruits de mer* — from French imported mussels to two types of escargot — rest on mounds of crushed ice. Next to that abundance is an aquarium with oysters and lobsters and beyond that is a stainless-steel kitchen busy with chefs buzzing about.

After waiting for a table (reservations are recommended), I was approached by a very polite server who offered me a drink and an explanation of the menu and specials. The menu is impressive, as are the prices.

I ordered a nine-piece sushi combination (NIS 74). The sushi man was extremely creative in his choices of funomak that included calamari, avocado, salmon skin, Japanese omelette and something unidentifiable — but good — wrapped in rice and seaweed. I also had a tiny decanter of hot Saké wine.

For a main dish I had moules marinière, a handsome portion of fresh mussels cooked in a white wine, butter, garlic and carrot shred sauce. With it I drank a chilled glass of one of the house wines, a French Jean Belmont Chardonnay.

The whole affair cost the damaging price of well over NIS 200 for one, but it was well worth it.

The service is excellent, sort of like well-trained puppies, but very quick and generous.

During the week, from noon until 5 p.m., Vongoly has a very attractive business-lunch selection ranging from sushi combos to oysters and wine. There is also a "choose your own" menu that includes most of the items from the regular menu and the same large portions that you can expect in the evening.

At night, between 8 and 10, elegant, wealthy clientele come by to spoil themselves with full three- to four-course meals. Later television personalities such as Sigal Shachmon and Dana Dvornik often come by for light (expensive) snacks and drinks.

Vongoly is open every day from 12 noon until at least 2 a.m.

Vongoly, 14 Ibn Gvirol Street, Tel Aviv

Songs on my mind

TV director Ron Cahili talks about his favorite music

For the first 28 years of his life film-maker Ron Cahili tried to be an Israeli, that is he tried to remake himself into the made-in-Israel Ashkenazi-sabra mold. He repudiated his eastern background and its culture. Growing up in Bat Yam, he made his mother turn off the radio when it played music from her native Egypt since the Arab was "the enemy."

He started as a singer in an army troupe and completed his army service as music editor for Army Radio, where he never played music with a one-eighth or a one-16th tone.

For the following 12 years he combined a career in advertising with journalism. His viewpoint and approach caused "cable TV to take a chance on me," as he has put it, and he started to make documentaries.

He then moved on to the major channels where he is now the director and editor of programs such as *That's My Secret*, and *Hamsa and Hamisha*. Most recently, Channel 2 aired his four-part *A Sea of Tears*, a documentary on the development of Mizrahi music that should win awards from the Israel Academy this year.

The film's title is taken from a song by Zohar Argov, the man who thrust Mizrahi music into the mainstream.

Even in the early Seventies the genre was still an exotic oddity. There were Mizrahi singers. There were even Mizrahi song festivals, but the winners were never played on the Top 20. They didn't fit. They weren't "Israeli."

Then, in the mid-Seventies, Argov changed everything, and through him came Cahili's real awakening to the grandeur of a heritage too long denied. The songs and the singers he's chosen indicate milestones in his own life.

1. "That's How We Parted" (Nifradnu Kach) — Avner Gadassi.

"It's a song that's connected with my own sexual awakening when I was 12 or 13. It's an erotic song, sad and gentle, wrapped in the sentimentality of the Seventies, but doesn't drown in it. The raspy gentleness of Gadassi's voice overcomes the schmaltz."

2. "Alone" (Badad) — Zohar Argov. "I got acquainted with this one in the army."



Argov committed suicide [in 1987]. When I first heard it, I got goose bumps. There was such abyssal sorrow, such hopelessness in the words and in Zohar's singing that I cried. 'Alone on the path to nowhere.' Is there a more tragic line than that?"

3. "A Sea of Tears" — Zohar Argov

"He was the first proud Mizrahi singer and went to the edge with that pride, long before I discovered my own Mizrahi roots. This is a depressing song too, but not in the ordinary sense. Argov's musical interpretation keeps the pride intact. I like that pride, that reticence that keeps sorrow within boundaries."

4. "Praise Jerusalem" — Avihu Medina, sung by Itzik Kala

"Kala is one of my favorite singers. He's a Jerusalemite of Kurdish ancestry, observant and shy. He gives this anthem to Jerusalem the flavor of a prayer. I love it for its gentleness and breadth, and I can identify with its spirit. The song reminds me of the more tolerant Mizrahi religious observance as it used to be; the man who'd fast on Yom Kippur but go to a football game on Saturday."

5. "A Bit of Luck" (Tipat Mazal) — Zehava Ben

"This is the song that made her a star and started the wave of Turkish music, music that's naive and unaware. Zehava turns this song into one of uncompromising and ultimate sorrow. She asks God for a bit of luck to get through this miserable life. The song reminds me of the neighborhood I grew up in, the movies of the '50s and '60s, the songs and myself at the time."

Hot tips

By DAHLIA SCHEINDLIN

Tel Aviv

Anglos can put on their dancing shoes tonight and paint the town red. Egged, United Tours and Planet Hollywood have organized Tel Aviv After Dark, a tour in English of Tel Aviv nightlife that includes a tour of the town, drinks, transportation, fun and adventure. Starts at 9, but call (03) 525-6484 for details.

Otherwise, ease out of the vacation mode with an evening of

tunes. The East-West Ensemble, with its many instruments and band members, plays tonight at 9:30 at the Einav Cultural Center. Call (03) 521-7760. Trakdim will be offering live jazz in the center of Tel Aviv at 6 Kaplan Street, starting at 10 p.m. (03) 691-4156.

Even the 'burbs are in the groove tonight: Barklay's Coffee in Ramat Gan hosts Meir Ben Michael's Quartet, which will be performing jazz tonight starting at 9 at 1 Jabotinsky St. Arik Lavie sings still more jazz tunes at Apropos Zahala starting at 10 p.m., and if you just can't handle any more jazz, head to Hasimta Theater in Jaffa. Boaz Avni performs in a show called *Nostalgia*, starting at 10 p.m. Call (03) 681-2126.

Friday is a full day at Tzavta: at 2 p.m., students of the Nissan Nativ Acting Studio perform *The Beating Heart: Poem*, a dramatic presentation of poetry and music. And later that night, starting at 9:45, the legendary, one and only, surfing, crooning, sort of funny-looking (but always funny) Danny Sanderson appears in concert. This singer-comedian is a must-

see, his shows are full of guaranteed giggles. Although his act will be tough to follow, Arcadi Duchin braves it on Saturday night, playing piano — also at Tzavta — starting at 9:30.

Fringe and regular theater are both busy with some of the standards tonight: *Middle Ages* by Klipa Theater plays at 9 p.m., and *Chumps* is at 8:30, both at ZOHA House. (03) 695-9341. Mr. V (the high-drama one-man show about still incarcerated Mordechai Vanunu) is at Tzavta starting at 8:30 p.m. (03) 695-0156. Haifa Theater's version of Joshua Sobol's *Ghetto* is at Habimah tonight starting at 8:30.

Civil War plays at Habimah as well, also at 8:30. *The Rebels*, a bittersweet historical drama, plays at the Cameri tonight at 8:30, while *Cooper* — a bitter-sweet personal drama — is at Beit Lessin. 8:30 p.m.

It's Kurosawa Saturday at the Cinematheque in Tel Aviv! A marathon of the late director's work starts at 1 in the afternoon with *The Hidden Fortress* and runs straight through to 9:30 p.m., when *Ron*

Weekender Food & Drink

The ultimate quick and easy pasta sauce

It's an open secret among connoisseurs of pasta sauces that canned tomatoes are not only faster, but also better. We'll make you a believer



By ERIC CELESTE
and CYNTHIA NICHOLSON

One photograph sums up my grandfather: him, in the kitchen, his left hand stirring his "tomato gravy" (as he called it) with a long wooden spoon, his right hand raised in triumph at the celebration of yet another perfect pasta sauce. To Granddad, a second-generation Italian-American born in Boston, there was no more worthwhile accomplishment. To me, Italian by way of Oklahoma, there is no finer food. A hearty, simple pasta sauce is redolent with the earthy richness of fresh tomatoes and the pungency of fresh herbs. Add a whisper of garlic, and you have the template for greatness.

Still, the world has changed a lot since my grandfather started making his "gravy." He's of a more leisurely era, when a person could spend Saturday in the kitchen, watching a pot of sauce slowly heat, filling the home with a beckoning aroma that lingered well past nightfall. Now, with two-worker and multiple-soccer-player families, we're lucky to have time to boil water. We need something quick and easy. We need cans.

I know what you're thinking, and canned goods can have a bad reputation. But canned tomatoes are an exception. Diced, whole, or crushed, tomatoes protected by metal containers don't go bad, as will even the best of the vine-ripe varieties. Those little cans of tomato paste, meanwhile, impart an intensity and thickness that would require hours of cooking at home. Most importantly, canned tomatoes, in all their forms, provide a consistency of flavor and texture almost impossible to obtain from their fresh counterparts. Many of the tricks used to keep commercially grown tomatoes from perishing on supermarket shelves, such as ripening them with ethylene gas or in warming rooms, also flatten flavor and aroma.

The bottom line: Fresh is nice, but when it comes to a great pasta sauce, canned is king. Faster, better, stronger, tastier. And once you've found just the right combi-

we have here — you can use it again and again. Always quick, always easy, it will become the base for as many variations as Italians have memories. A great sauce, like a great Granddad, is a guide for life.

ULTIMATE QUICK-AND-EASY PASTA SAUCE

This easy-to-make sauce is so tasty and versatile, it's used as the basis of all the recipes that follow. You can substitute crushed or whole tomatoes for the diced. Crushed will give you a smooth, thick sauce; whole adds a nice chunkiness. Serve this sauce with your favorite pasta.

1 tsp. olive oil
1 cup chopped onion
4 garlic cloves, minced
1 cup dry red wine or 2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh or 2 tsp. dried basil
2 Tbsp. tomato paste
1 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
1 tsp. black pepper
2 (435 gr.) cans diced tomatoes, undrained
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
Heat oil in a saucepan or large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and garlic; sauté 5 minutes. Stir in wine and next 6 ingredients (wine through tomatoes), and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, and cook, uncovered, about 15 minutes. Stir in parsley. Yield: 3 cups (serving size: 1 cup).

Calories 126 (16 percent from fat); fat 2.5g (sat 0.4g, mono 1.3g, poly 0.5g); protein 4.1g; carb 25.2g; fiber 3.7g; chol 0mg; iron 2.8mg; sodium 461mg; calc 110mg.

PUTTANESCA SAUCE

1 tsp. olive oil
1 cup chopped onion
4 garlic cloves, minced
1 cup dry red wine or 2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh or 2 tsp. dried basil
2 Tbsp. tomato paste
1 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
1 tsp. black pepper
2 (435 gr.) cans diced tomatoes,

1/2 cup chopped pitted green olives
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
1 Tbsp. capers
1/2 tsp. anchovy paste
1/2 to 3/4 tsp. crushed red pepper
Heat oil in a saucepan or large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and garlic; sauté 5 minutes. Stir in wine and next 6 ingredients (wine through tomatoes), and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, and cook, uncovered, about 15 minutes. Stir in olives and remaining ingredients; cook until thoroughly heated. Yield: 3 cups (serving size: 1 cup).

Calories 139 (21 percent from fat); fat 3.2g (sat 0.5g, mono 1.8g, poly 0.6g); protein 4.6g; carb 26.1g; fiber 4g; chol 0mg; iron 3.2mg; sodium 900mg; calc 120mg.

SALSA DEL SOL

This recipe was inspired by sunny flavors from south of the border.

1 tsp. olive oil
1 cup chopped onion
4 garlic cloves, minced
1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
1 cup dry red wine or 2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh or 2 tsp. dried basil

2 Tbsp. tomato paste
1/2 tsp. ground cumin
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. black pepper
2 (435 gr.) cans diced tomatoes, undrained
1/2 cup tequila
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
1 Tbsp. minced fresh cilantro
Heat oil in a saucepan or large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion, garlic, and jalapeno; sauté 5 minutes. Stir in wine and next 7 ingredients (wine through tomatoes), and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, and cook, uncovered, for 10 minutes. Stir in the tequila, parsley, and cilantro, and cook for 5 minutes. Yield: 3 cups (serving size: 1 cup).

Calories 127 (17 percent from fat); fat 2.4g (sat 0.4g, mono 1.3g, poly 0.5g); protein 4.2g; carb 25.2g; fiber 3.9g; chol 0mg; iron 2.9mg; sodium 459mg; calc 100mg.

SICILIAN-STYLE SAUCE

1 tsp. olive oil
225 gr. ultra-lean ground beef
1 cup chopped onion
4 garlic cloves, minced
1/2 cup dry red wine or 2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1/2 cup golden raisins
1 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh or 1 tsp. dried basil
2 Tbsp. tomato paste
1/2 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
1 tsp. black pepper
2 (435 gr.) cans diced tomatoes, undrained
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
2 tsp. coarsely chopped pine nuts, toasted

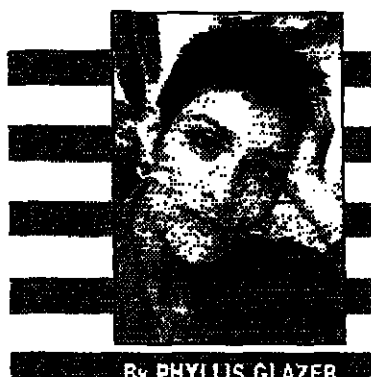
Heat oil in a saucepan or large skillet over medium-high heat. Add beef, onion, and garlic; sauté 5 minutes. Stir in wine and next 7 ingredients (wine through tomatoes), and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, and cook, uncovered, about 15 minutes. Stir in parsley and pine nuts. Yield: 4 cups (serving size: 1 cup).

Calories 222 (27 percent from fat); fat 6.6g (sat 1.8g, mono 3g, poly 1.1g); protein 15.8g; carb 27.8g; fiber 3.5g; chol 35mg; iron 3.6mg; sodium 376mg; calc 9.6mg.

ARRABBIATA SAUCE

This spicy sauce gets its name from arrabbiare, which means "to get angry" in Italian.

1 tsp. olive oil
1 cup chopped onion
4 garlic cloves, minced
1/2 cup dry red wine or 2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh or 1 tsp. dried basil
1 tsp. crushed red pepper
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1/2 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
1/2 tsp. black pepper
2 (435 gr.) cans diced tomatoes, undrained
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
Heat oil in a saucepan or large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and garlic; sauté 5 minutes. Stir in wine and next 8 ingredients (wine through tomatoes), and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, and cook, uncovered,



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Stuffed chicken (good)

Although the holidays are past, it's still handy to have a stuffed chicken in the freezer for when family or guests arrive. Falcon's new boneless chicken remains whole and perfect-looking even though it's been deboned and stuffed with rice and mushrooms, rice and dried fruit, or ground turkey (why would anyone want to eat a chicken with a ground turkey inside?). We tasted the one with rice and dried fruit, and found that although the rice has softened a little too much, the general taste was quite good. You can buy already stuffed or boneless chicken for stuffing at NIS 31.90 kg at Falcon (Tel Aviv: 14 Carlebach Street; Yavne: 60 Rehov Hadror; Jerusalem: 76 Derech Beit Lehem; Herzliya: 10 Sokolov Street.) Kosher.

Fried and frozen onion (avoid)

First there was frozen onion. Now there's frozen fried onion manufactured by FoodClub. Initially released during the holidays, this new product was designed to help shorten heavy holiday cooking time. Even though it has no artificial additives, it still tastes like a manufactured product rather than fried onion you'd make at home. It may not give you tears, but I'm not sure that it will add to your cooking. I also was not fond of the aroma when opening the jar. Sells for NIS 9.95 for a 350-gr. jar.

Planning a morning event?

If you're looking for a place to hold a morning event, the recently renovated Beit Hamahandes ("Engineer's House") on Dizengoff Street is offering its location for family, business or social events. The hours for the events are generally 9 to 11 a.m., and the facility serves 100 to 300 people. Special breakfast smorgasbords are offered in Israeli and European styles. Prices range from \$15 to \$25 per person plus VAT. Located at 200 Dizengoff Street, its telephone is (03) 524-1681 or (03) 522-0005. Here's one of its recipes: 1.2 kg assorted colored pep-

Phyllis's Tips

pers (yellow, green, red)
1 kg tomatoes, cut into large cubes
6-8 slices of white bread cut into cubes
2 Tbsp. olive oil
50 gr. capers
1 bunch fresh mint
1 bunch fresh coriander

Cut the tomatoes and peppers into large cubes. Cut the bread into small cubes. Mix the tomatoes, peppers and bread together and add the vinegar, olive oil, capers and salt to taste. Add the mint and coriander just before serving.

Top jam (excellent)

Although many readers make their own jams, and often write me with questions about making jams, I personally dislike cooking with such large quantities of sugar (in addition to finding the process time consuming). But even if I did make my own, I'm not sure I could ever reach the taste of St. Dalfour jams, based only on fruit with no sugar added (only concentrated grape juice, pectin when necessary and lemon juice). The French company specializes in producing fruit liqueurs and other natural fruit products. In Israel they will

be marketing true fruit jams in apricot, blueberry, cherry, orange, strawberry and raspberry flavors. The 284-gr. jars sell for NIS 12.90. A very sweet deal. By the way, the jam is made in a converted castle. It doesn't add to the flavor, but it gives it a certain charm.

Magic seasoned salt (good)

Paul Prudhomme is almost a household word in America. Although so obese that he spends most of his time in a motor-powered wheelchair, this delightful, earnest and genuinely friendly chef created and promoted his native Cajun cuisine for the last two decades — writing books, appearing on TV and developing a line of his own products manufactured in New Orleans, from where he hails.

His latest product to be imported, Magic Seasoning Salt, made of salt, various spices, dried onion and dried garlic, is tasty and handy to have around. Use it to sprinkle on fresh fries, popcorn, salads, eggs and pasta dishes. Season cooked vegetables, chicken, fish, steak, grilled meats, fried fish, soups and sauces. Does not contain preservatives, MSG or artificial ingredients. Sold in 200-gr. containers for NIS 8.

Skinny rice crackers (very good)

Osem's new skinny rice crackers are on the right track. Square and very thin, and based on either puffed brown rice or wheat and oatmeal, they are made of natural ingredients only, are rich in fiber, and contain 16-17 calories per slice. They are only lightly salted (a pleasure).

My kids liked the rice ones better, but they're both very good. Just remember to close the package well so they don't get stale. Sells for NIS 5.05 for 130 grams.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

You once wrote a long time ago about natural treatments for the eyes. Could you give them to us once again?

— Lucy Epstein, Haifa

To reduce bags and dark circles, cosmetics sometimes recommend placing a thin slice of either potato or pear under each eye and lying down to rest for 15 minutes. I'm not sure what works better — the potato or the pear, but the combination seems to help. To help reduce redness and puffiness in the eyes, lie down and place thin slices of cold cucumber on closed eyes.

You can also rub cucumber or potato over your face for a cool, clean feeling.

For dry skin in the eye area, you can open a capsule of vitamin E, D or A, or add it to your favorite cream and use before going to bed. For tired eyes, try steeping chamomile tea bags in water for a half hour. Let the tea cool, then freeze it in an ice-cube tray. Wrap in cheesecloth and gently rub over the eyes and face. You can place chamomile bags directly on the eyes, but the cold cubes are very refreshing.

What exactly is the food pyramid? What's on top and what's on bottom? Is this better than the theory of eating by food groups?

— Esther Bailin, Eilat

The food pyramid is a reorganized way of eating by food groups that was designed by the US Department of Health. At the bottom of the pyramid — the foods

we need most to consume — are cereal, bread, grains and grain products. Just above that are fruits and vegetables, then meat, poultry, fish, eggs, beans or nuts (2-3 servings daily) that can be replaced with 2-3 servings of dairy products. At the top of the pyramid — the foods we should consume the least — are alcohol, sweets and fats.

The idea of selecting food by groups was started in the US by the first director of the Office of Experiment Stations in 1917. Even then, he warned against eating too many fats, starches and sugars, but was largely ignored. The pyramid was created to illustrate not just food categories but their proportions in a healthy diet — a diet based mostly on grains, fruits and vegetables, with proteins like meat, fish, beans and dairy products appearing just after. The pyramid suggests decreasing consumption of sweets, fats, dairy products and meat products.

Wine Celler

The benefits of wine

By NOGA TARNOPOLSKY

As part of my research on the salutary benefits of wine consumption, I recently came upon a book by Dr. E. Maury called *Your Good Health: The Medicinal Effects of Wine Drinking*. It is unclear what type of doctor Maury is, since the book identifies the Frenchman only as "a homeopathic doctor who spent his life studying the medicinal properties of wine."

Maury ventures boldly where others fear to tread, actually prescribing specific wines as remedies for various illnesses and ailments.

Wine, from Maury's point of view, is nothing more (or less) than "an agreeable form of plant therapy." Maury explains that he defines wine as a "remedy" or "medicine" because it is among those substances "that can bring about a beneficial change in the physiological functioning of any limb or organ, and [assist in] their return to full health — whether such means are hygienic, pharmaceutical, physiotherapeutic, surgical or even dietary."

Maury does not come out against such modern innovations as antibiotics or booster shots, but he does point out that wine has long been used for medicinal purposes and that it is a pure and natural substance.

"At a time when the health market is being

flooded with synthetic products prescribed as healing agents, men and women, for their own protection and their own good, are turning more and more to natural medicines," he points out.

Maury goes back quite far to explicate the medicinal origins of what he calls "the divine nectar." He cites the Bible, presenting both Noah and Moses as fans of the vine, as well as asserting that "the Babylonian Talmud considered wine the most effective of medicines."

His historical survey also includes Charles Richet, a physiologist and winner of the 1913 Nobel Prize for Medicine. According to Richet's research, Sauternes wines could destroy colon bacilli.

Of special interest for any ailing wine-lover, or anyone bored and sick who wants to take up enology as a hobby, Maury recommends extra-dry champagne for a wide spectrum of ailments: loss of appetite; detoxification; digestive problems; hypertension; mineral deficiencies; and as a tonic during periods of convalescence.

The book ends with an encyclopedic chart of illnesses and their corresponding wine-remedies. A few other examples: Blanc de Blanc for rheumatoid arthritis; Beaujolais for bacterial infections and mineral deficiencies; Medoc against arteriosclerosis, bacterial infections, diarrhoea and acute rheumatism; and, finally, Riesling to combat diabetes and obesity.

about 15 minutes. Stir in parsley. Yield: 3 cups (serving size: 1 cup).

Calories 133 (17 percent from fat); fat 2.5g (sat 0.4g, mono 1.3g, poly 0.5g); protein 4.4g; carb 26.7g; fiber 4.2g; chol 0mg; iron 3mg; sodium 468mg; calc 112mg.

PEPPERED TENDERLOIN WITH POLENTA AND PUTTANESCA SAUCE

1 1/2 cups yellow cornmeal
1/2 tsp. salt
4 cups water
6 (120 gr.) beef tenderloin steaks (2.5 cm. thick)
1 garlic clove, halved
1 tsp. coarsely ground black

pepper
Cooking spray
3 cups Puttanesca Sauce (see recipe above)
Flat-leaf parsley sprigs (optional)

Combine cornmeal and salt in a medium saucepan. Gradually add water, stirring constantly with a whisk. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium, and cook for 15 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from heat.

Rub steaks with garlic; sprinkle with pepper. Place a large non-stick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat until hot. Add steaks; cook 3 minutes on each side or until desired

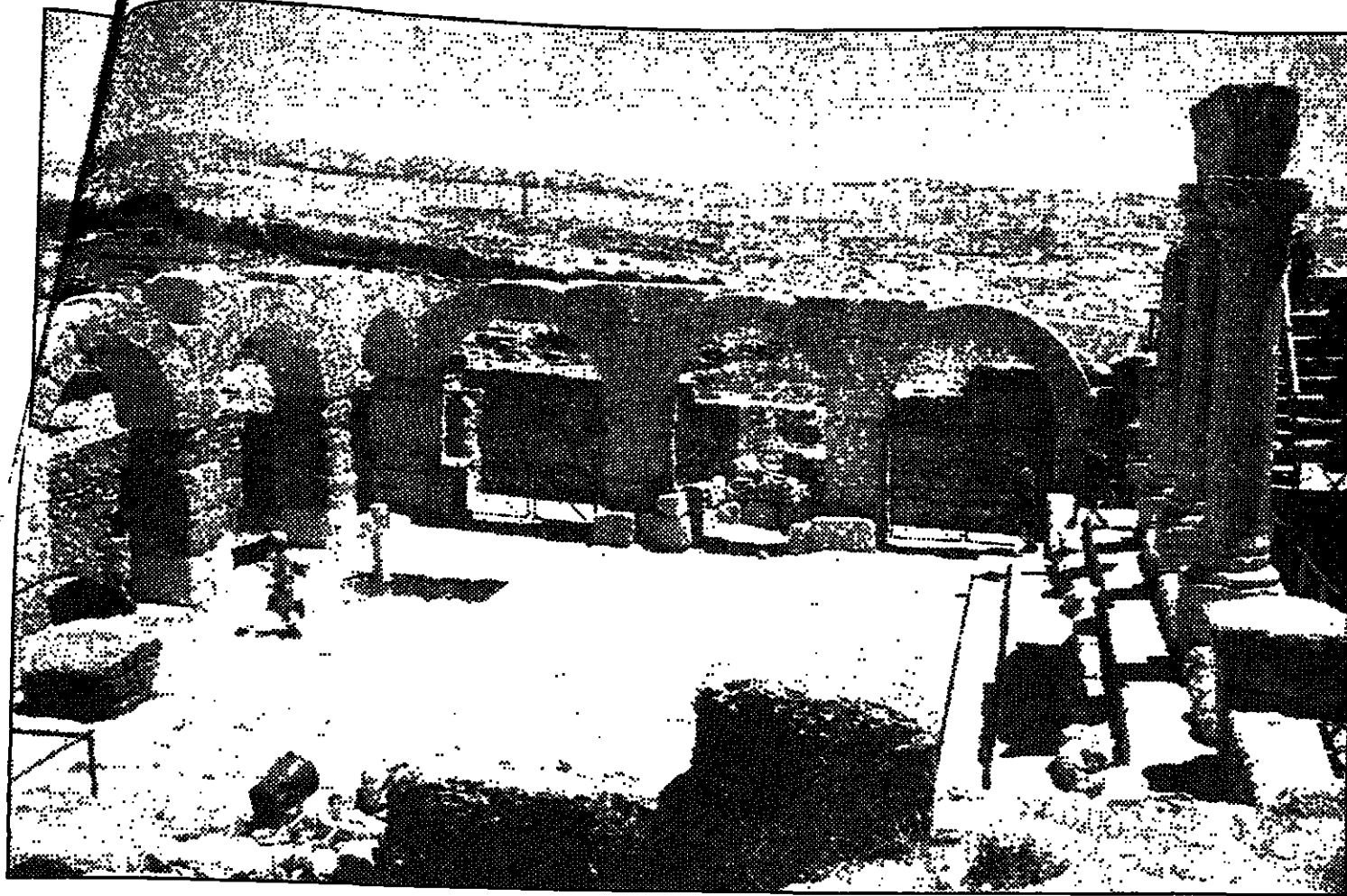
degree of doneness. Serve each steak over 1/2 cup polenta; spoon 1/2 cup Puttanesca Sauce over each steak. Garnish with parsley sprigs, if desired. Yield: 6 servings.

Calories 345 (25 percent from fat); fat 9.6g (sat 3.3g, mono 3.9g, poly 0.8g); protein 28.4g; carb 35.8g; fiber 3.6g; chol 70mg; iron 6.1mg; sodium 610mg; calc 71mg.

Eric Celeste is a freelance writer and managing producer of Microsoft's Dallas Sidewalk Internet site. Cynthia Nicholson LaGrone is an Associate Food Editor at Cooking Light.

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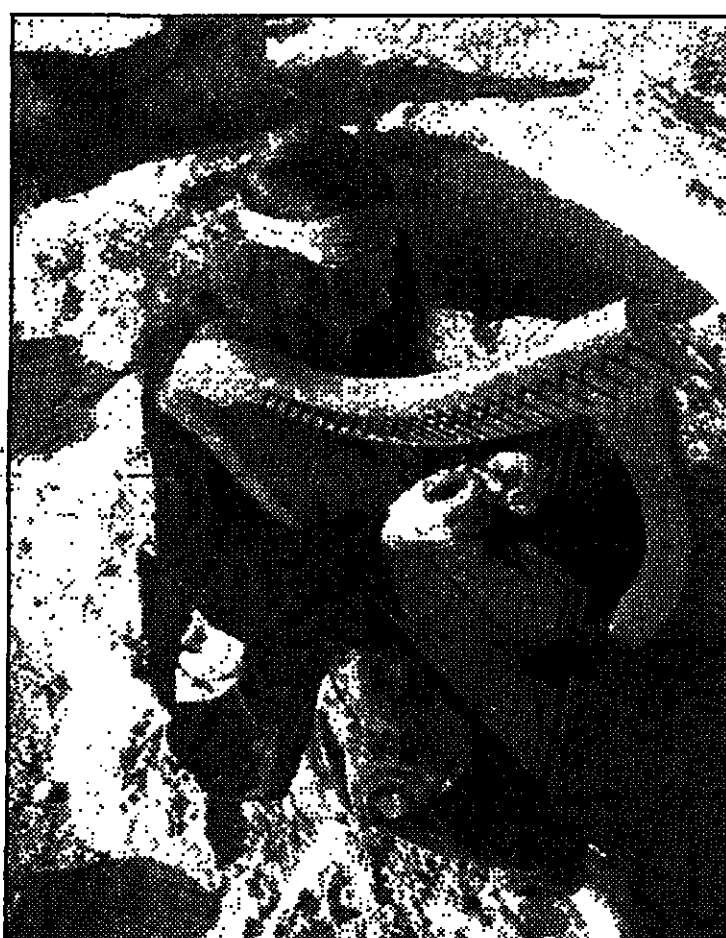
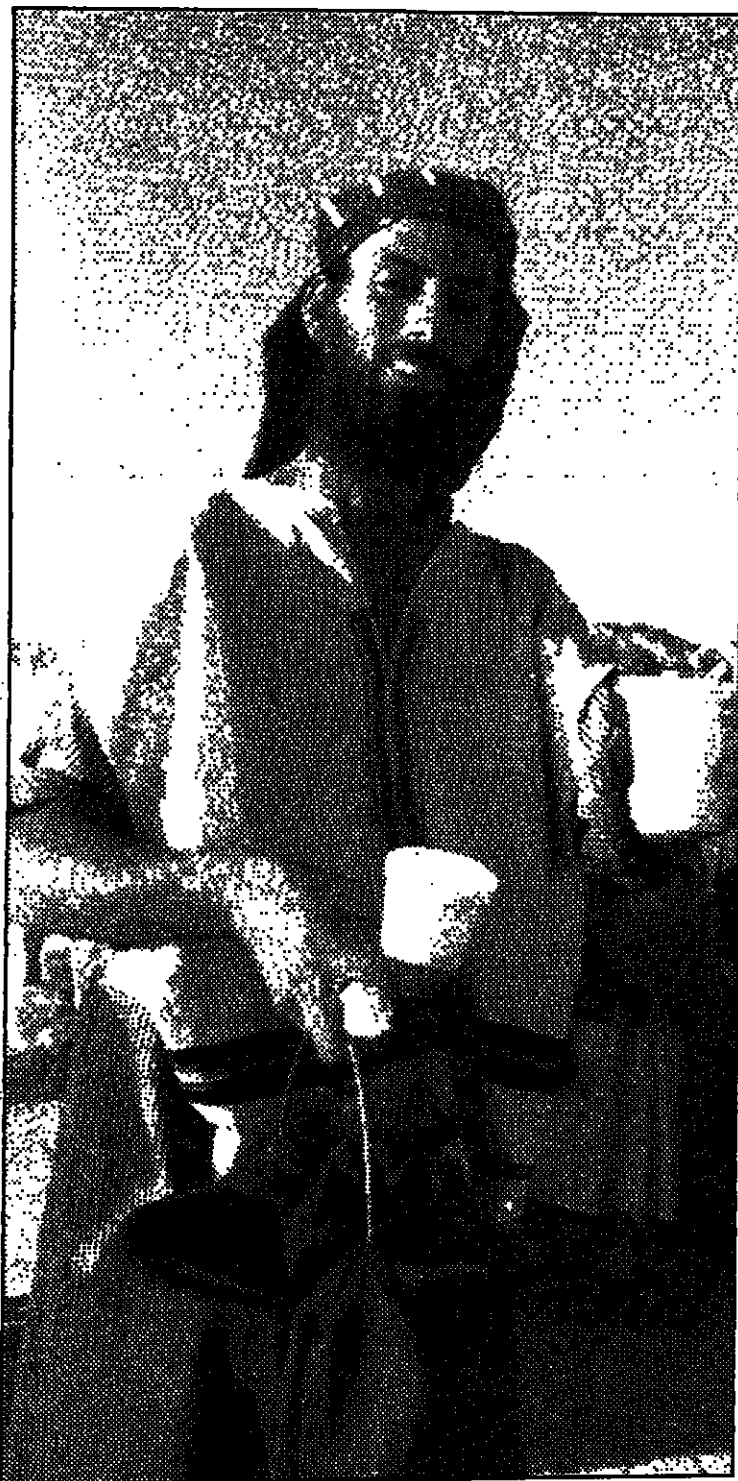


The excavations at ancient Sussiya have been partially reconstructed and are well worth visiting.

(Photos: Sarit Uziely)

Close Encounters
By Allan Rabinowitz

Where Jewish life clung to the hills



(Above and left) Every Succot and Pessah the site becomes a display of living history as 'talmudic' scholars, musicians and craftsmen fill the streets.

In the southeastern Judean Hills, clinging to the parched, stony hills that merge into the Judean Desert, sit the ruins of the ancient Jewish community of Sussiya. In that settlement sit the remains of a large synagogue, in the courtyard of which a mosaic inscription in Hebrew was discovered.

The inscription honors one Rabbi Issi Hakohen, who "plastered the walls of this synagogue, which shook with joy on the day of the wedding feast of his son, Rabbi Yohanan Hakohen, the scribe. Peace unto Israel. Amen."

Having recently visited Sussiya, I thought of that inscription on Simhat Torah, when the walls of our synagogue shook with joy. I wondered how many Sussiya danced and sang in that synagogue, and how many weddings shook the now-collapsed walls with joy. After all, the community that centered around that synagogue numbered, at one point, some 5,000.

Much of the site is not yet excavated. You can see the weed-covered, tumble-down walls and foundations spreading up the gentle

stony hills on either side of the streets, alleys and courtyards of the town's center. But what has been excavated has been partially reconstructed and is worth visiting.

THE story of Sussiya — and by extension, the other communities that sprinkled the area of southern Judea — is one of Jewish continuity, faith and transformation, unfolding in a harsh environment that was exposed to the vicissitudes of a hostile regime that could unexpectedly and arbitrarily unleash repression like a hammer blow.

During the late Roman and Byzantine Christian eras, Jews were often forced out of Jerusalem. Yet here, in the arid hills 50 kilometers south, they not only clung stubbornly to life, but even prospered.

An excellent introductory video, screened in one of the town's many caves, breathes life into ancient Sussiya and roots it firmly into the context of the Talmud, which would have governed its daily life.

The synagogue, for example, was built on the highest ground, as stipulated in the Talmud (Tosefta, Megilla 4). Indentations for *mezuzot* can be seen in the door lintels. An outer courtyard in the foreground of a burial cave allowed one who did not enter the cave to retain his state of ritual purity. The *mikvaot* (ritual baths) included water channels built as specified by Halacha.

The tenuousness of life on these slopes is evident throughout the remains of the city. It is laced, for example, with an intricate system of aqueducts, channels and cisterns.

Moreover, much of the community's life seems to have been conducted underground. Many of

the houses and industrial installations sit above caves that provided cool shelter in the summer, as well as supplemental rooms or shelter for animals. Some caves probably served as homes in themselves.

BUT beyond the challenges of physical and economic sustenance, Sussiya was perched on a political, religious and cultural fringe as well.

The Jews walked a delicate line. On the one hand they needed the protection of the central government in Jerusalem — first the Romans, then Byzantine Christians, and then the Moslems — against the desert tribes that might attack from the wild regions of the Negev.

But the sovereign power in Jerusalem, under the whim of a particular ruler, might itself suddenly threaten this exposed Jewish community.

That sense of insecurity can be seen in the houses on the outskirts of the city; their outer walls, without doors or windows, served as a defense against desert marauders. The houses were also connected by a series of tunnels that served as an escape route leading to and beyond the synagogue.

The synagogue could become a fortress, with a huge rolling stone that could seal the front entrance in times of danger.

The floor of that synagogue is divided into three sections along the hall's width, decorated with colorful mosaics and inscriptions that evidently date to different periods ranging from the fourth to ninth centuries. These include what is believed to be the first written inscription counting the years according to the Jewish estimate of the time of creation.

But, like those of contemporary

Galilee synagogues, the mosaics also portray animal and human figures (including a scene of Daniel in the lion's den), and a zodiac (only partially visible), which would have been unthinkable two centuries earlier. Such figures indicate that from the fourth century onward Judaism in Israel absorbed motifs, at least superficially, from the dominant culture.

But however tough the conditions, and however delicate the political and religious balancing act, Sussiya survived as a Jewish town through the Byzantine Christian period and into the Islamic period. It was abandoned, for unknown reasons, only in the ninth century.

Today, it comes to life every Succot and Pessah, with "talmudic" scholars, musicians and craftsmen filling the streets. Though this Succot has passed, there is always Pessah and next Succot to visit this display of living history.

But anytime in between, you can walk the streets and explore the caves in which Jewish life clung to the hills as stubbornly as the weeds and herbs growing between the stones. If you listen closely, you might even hear joyful singing in the synagogue.

To reach Sussiya from Jerusalem, follow the highway south from Gilo toward Gush Etzion, then follow the signs to Kiryat Arba, then toward Route 317 and Carmel, Maon, Sussiya and Beit Yatir.

Ancient Sussiya is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday to Thursday. There is an admission fee. Tel: (02) 996-3012.

Allan Rabinowitz is a licensed tour guide.

Weekender Travel



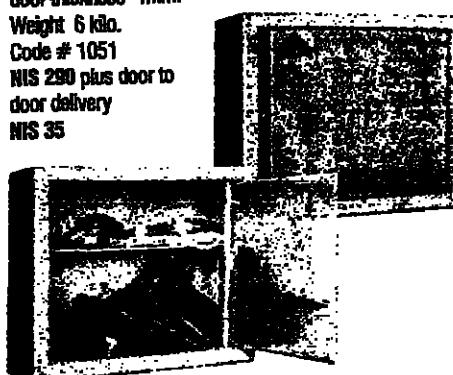
Sussiya's synagogue floor is decorated with colorful mosaics which depict animal and human figures as well as a zodiac.

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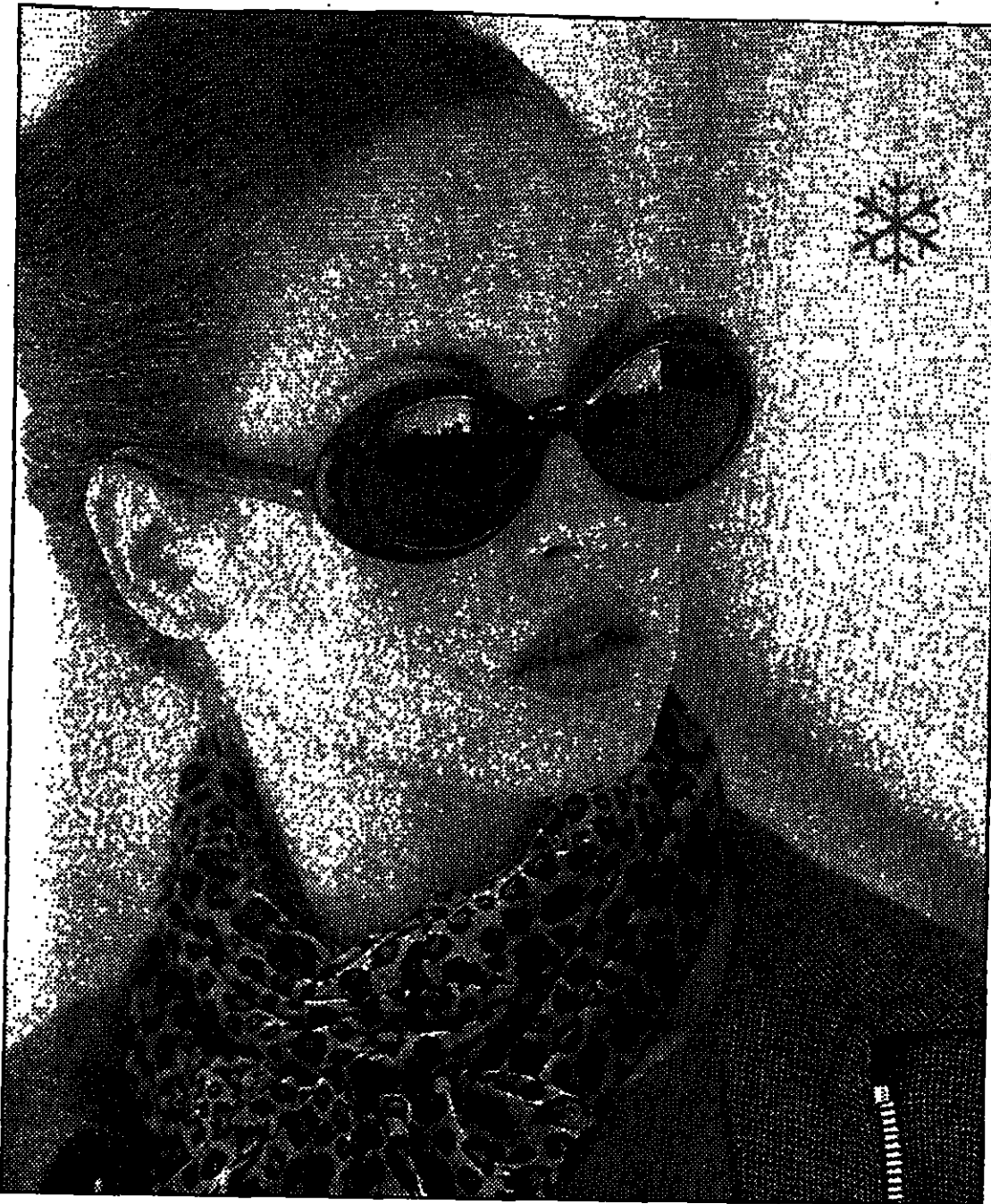
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Weekender Leisure



Winter chic: Dark colors, light fabrics

Other than black, the predominant color in the fashion palette this season is gray, followed by maroon, brown, olive and deep, inky blues.

The grays run the gamut from the palest pearly hues to deep charcoal. The maroon is generally deep-toned, the browns are almost every shade of coffee and chocolate and the olive a distinctive, full-bodied green.

But more interesting than the fall/winter collections' colors are their textures. With the exception of coats and some categories of knitwear, most collections belie the season for which they are intended.

Fabrics are often lacy or gossamer thin, and even the styling, which reveals much more bare flesh than is generally the case in winter, speaks volumes about climactic changes outdoors and temperature control indoors.

Well over a decade ago, Israel's premier couture designer Gideon Oberson predicted that eventually there would be no real distinctions between indoor summer and winter attire. He's been proven right.

Indoor heating in public and private buildings renders genuine winter clothes acutely uncomfortable. So what we're doing to herald a change in season is a matter of color substitution. We're packing away the soft pastels and bright citrus summer gear to make

room for the more somber shades of winter, without necessarily changing the weight of the cloth.

The constant, as noted, is black, the perennial color which can easily be dressed up or dressed down and mated with any other color.

Take a look at Rosh Indiani, where provocative styles seem much more summery than wintry.

There's more cover-up in in Hagara's dramatically understated fall/winter collection, in which black and charcoal gray feature strongly in semi-sheer stretch fabrics in long tunics, ankle-length skirts and figure-hugging maxi dresses that can be pulled and draped into many variations of a theme.

At Honigman, which caters to a slightly younger clientele, the emphasis is more on grays, browns and maroon than on black, with jungle prints making strong statements in scarves and trims as well as in some of the garments themselves.

At Matim Li, which features large sizes, the look is more wintry. Coats feature fur linings and cuffs. Risking the ire of animal-rights activists, coat designers are increasingly utilizing fur for cozy effects. Often it's faux, but quite frequently it's the real thing. Thanks to modern technology, there are many instances in which only an expert can tell the difference.

Flair

By Greer Fay Cashman



Bridge 'The Bridge World' expands

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

Rubber bridge

South dealer

East-West vulnerable

North

♠ A Q 10 9

♥ 8 7 5

♦ A 9 8 7

♣ 4 3

West

♠ J 7 5 3

♥ K Q J

♦ J 6

♣ Q 7 5 2

East

♠ 4 2

♥ 10 9 6 4 3

♦ K Q 10 4 3 2

♣ -

South

♠ K 8 6

♥ A 3

♦ 5

♣ A K J 10 9 8 6

South

1 ♠

3 ♠

3 ♠

4 ♠

West

pass

pass

pass

pass

pass

pass

pass

pass

pass

pass

pass

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The Bridge World magazine, edited by Jeff Rubens, is now in its 70th year of publication. This week Rubens has announced a major upgrade.

Beginning with its November issue, the monthly will increase in size by 12 pages, incorporating a new section, "Bridgeworks," which is devoted to helping players improve their results and increase their enjoyment through a deeper understanding. The price of subscriptions will remain the same, so it sounds like a very good buy.

The magazine has been dedicated to the tournament player, and has many excellent and entertaining columns for improving your game, such as "Challenge the champs" and "Mastersolvers bidding forum."

"Bridgeworks," however, appears to be strictly a tutorial section. Its articles will teach common sense and the development of useful thought patterns rather than memorization and the use of complicated rules.

Today's deal, from the upcoming issue, is a good example. Declarer can find the correct play to succeed in his slam through logical thinking and without the need for any fancy plays.

South opened the bidding with

one club and West passed. North responded one spade, though he could have bid one diamond. He preferred to bid his major.

East now would have a perfect takeout call of two notrump (for the other two suits) at any other vulnerability. But vulnerable against not was the only time that would make this bid too dangerous. So East passed and South now made an aggressive jump rebid of three clubs. This bid normally requires 17 or 18 points, but South was counting on his strong club suit to make up for his short highcard strength.

Now North fished for three notrump by bidding his diamond stopper, but South showed his spade support, and this left North with nowhere to go but back to clubs. South cuedbid the ace of hearts and North pictured South with the hand he held, but perhaps with the jack of spades as well or the queen of clubs. Six clubs became the final contract and West led the king of hearts.

Declarer won the first trick with the ace of hearts and cashed the ace of trumps. He received the bad news about the club break, and now had to find a way to discard his losing heart before letting West in with the queen of clubs.

South reasoned that the only way the contract could succeed was if West had to follow to four rounds of spades, which would permit the discard of his heart loser without allowing West to score a low trump.

Therefore, after the ace and king of spades failed to drop the jack, declarer successfully finessed dummy's 10 on the third round of spades. That would normally not be the correct play in the spade suit, but in these circumstances a 3-3 spade break would not allow the contract to be made.

A subscription to The Bridge World from Israel is \$62 for 12 monthly issues. Write to: The Bridge World, 717 White Plains Rd., Suite 106, Scarsdale, NY 10583-5009. USA. Phone: (914) 725-6712. Or you may contact this writer, and I will advise you on paying in shekels.

Contact me by e-mail at: Man@BridgeToday.com or write to The Jerusalem Post.

Chess Outdated ratings

By NIGEL SHORT

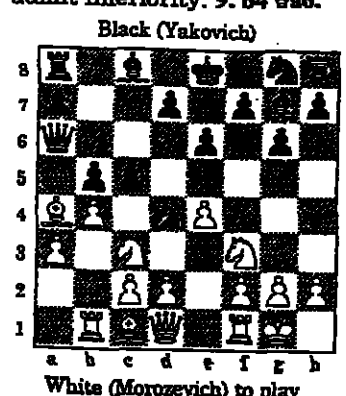
AT SOME point around January 1st 1999 when the next FIDE ratings are due to be published, most of the chess world will notice that 21-year-old Alexander Morozevich from Russia has had a fantastic year.

It is a pity that it will take so long for people's perceptions to catch up with reality, but the rating system, which is basically sound and widely respected, is beginning to show signs of age. It was designed in the pre-computer era. Numbers are rounded up or down because it made it easier to calculate for someone with a pencil and a piece of paper. Lists are published twice yearly but there is no good reason nowadays why they cannot appear four or even six times.

Currently I am ranked 15th in the world and not 14th for no better reason than that Salov comes before Short in the alphabet. Gata Kamsky, who has not played chess for two years is ranked 7th. Why not Fischer? Why not Lasker? (Sorry, I forgot he's dead). I digress. I wanted to talk about Morozevich. After winning in Kishinev and Perm (the city, not the hairstyle), he outdid himself in the Russian Team Championship (a moderately strong event, by the way) scoring 9/10 on top board, with Svidler being the most notable of his victims. He has the ability to make solid and respectable grandmasters look like blithering idiots. Mikhail Ulibin crashed so horribly that for a moment he deserved his unlucky nickname (loony bin). Yuri Yakovich hardly fared better. Hypnosis, perhaps?

White: Morozevich
Black: Yakovich
Russian Team Champ, June 1998
1. e4 e5 2. Qf3 Qc6 3. Qb5 g6 4. 0-0 Qg7 5. Qc3. This Morozevich speciality is so obscure that it only merits a brief footnote in the 6-volume Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings. It is a very obvious

move, when you think of it, but for decades White players have concentrated on plans involving e3 fighting for the d4 square. This is a small example of his understated play. 5... Qd4 6. Qa4. Unusual again. Previous games had gone 6.Nxd4. This deviation was enough to destroy Yakovich's equilibrium. He now attempts to punish White by exploiting the vulnerable position of the a4 bishop. In doing so he forgets that he has yet to complete his development. 6... Qa5 7. Bb1 e6 7... Qx3+ 8. Qxf3 Qx3 9. Qxc3 hitting the rook on h8, saves the wayward prelate. 8. a3! b5. Continuing on the kamikaze course. It was more advisable to abandon this idea altogether and admit inferiority. 9. b4 Qa6.



White (Morozevich) to play
10. bxc5! Simple and devastating. The bishop is sacrificed for one mighty initiative. 10... Qx3+ 10... Qx3+ 11. Qxd4 Qxd4 12. Qb5 Qc5 13. Qb2! was probably what was overlooked. 11. Qx3 bxa4 12. Qb5 Qe7 13. Qd4. Black may be a piece up but he is just about ready to resign. The rest is a total massacre. 13... Qf6 14. Qe7 Qe6 15. d5! Qxc5 15... Qxc7 16. d6+ 16. Qxa8 Qa6 17. Be1 Qb6. With the slim hope that he can catch the a8 knight and somehow hang on but he is never given the chance. 18. Qc3 Qc8 19. d6+ Qxd6 20. Qxb6 Qxb6 21. Qx6 Qf8 21... Qx8 22. Qd1+ Qc7 23. Qe5+ wins just about everything. 22. Qd1+ Black resigns.

© Telegraph Group



(Clockwise from top) At Honigman, jungle prints are making strong statements in scarves; Black and charcoal gray dominate Hagara's dramatically understated fall/winter collection; Matim Li's large size coats feature fur linings and cuffs; This season, Honigman is revealing much more bare flesh than is generally the case in winter; Rosh Indiani's provocative styles also seem much more summery than wintry.

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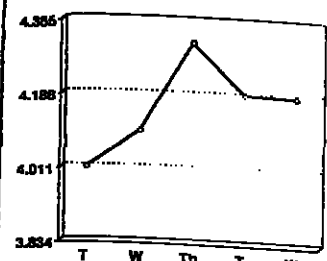
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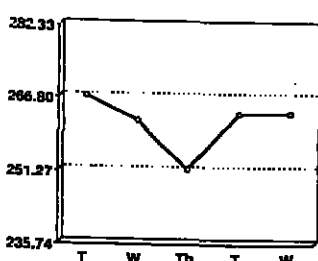
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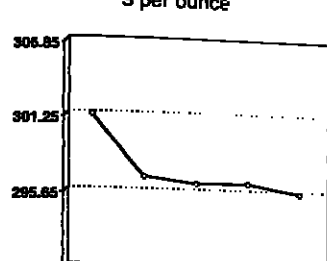
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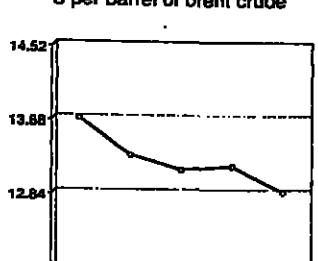
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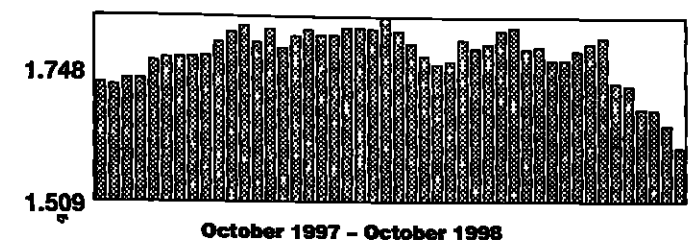
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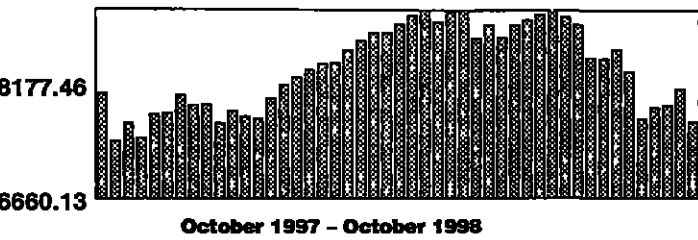
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Leon: Government intends to proceed with bank sales

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Despite the global economic turmoil the government intends to sell its controlling interests in Israel Discount Bank and Bank Leumi by the end of next year, Moshe Leon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday at the Jubilee Business Summit in Jerusalem.

Edouard Stern, who is bidding for Bank Discount as part of a group led by former Safra family banker Jeffrey Keil, said that all group members are still interested in buying the bank but would bid lower than originally planned.

He said that in light of the recent decline of world markets the government should expect to earn less from the sale of Israel's third largest bank.

Another consideration, Stern added, is that local banks are exposed to higher risks arising from foreign currency-linked loans following the sharp depreciation of the shekel.

Leon said that over the next three years the government

intends to focus on selling state-owned companies including El Al, airlines, the oil refineries, Israel Electric Corporation, the Haifa international airport, public housing and part of the defense industry.

Transport Ministry director-general Nahum Langental said the sale of El Al may be postponed because of difficult market conditions. He said the government plans to float 49 percent of the company's stock in the current year. Langental said the government also plans to spin-off driving tests to private companies which will be officially approved by the ministry.

Ron Lubash, managing director of Lehman Brothers (Israel), said that Israel is one of the few emerging markets to survive the phenomenon of the escape of foreign investors.

"The good elements and the relative stability of this economy [Israel] have moved it or enabled it to be part of the stable developing Western hemisphere," Lubash said.

IMI and US firm enter joint marketing venture

By STEVE RODAN

A US-based subsidiary of Israel Military Industries Ltd. and Primex Technologies have formed a joint venture to market heavy ammunition in the US and around the world.

The new company, called Global Ordnance LLC, was announced at an arms exhibition in Washington.

Primex Technologies, based in St. Petersburg, Fla., is one of the four leading companies worldwide in the manufacture of weapons systems, tank ammunition and space industry products.

The company had expressed interest in purchasing IMI's heavy ammunition division as part of a

privatization program. Both IMI and Primex are about the same size and deal in similar products. Primex reported sales of \$500 million for 1997 and employs 2,600 people. IMI expects sales in 1998 to reach \$550 million and employs about 4,000.

IMI said its partnership with Primex will enable its products to better compete in the US market.

The executives said one goal is to try to sell the US Army ammunition for the M-1 tank.

IMI executives said the partnership was encouraged by the Defense Ministry, which wants the company to link with foreign manufacturers.

Hutchison Telecom executive:

Partner aims for IPO in 1999

By NINA GILBERT and DAN GERSTENFELD

Orange-Partner Communications, the country's third cellular network, is planning to make an initial public offering in 1999, Hutchison Telecommunications Managing Director Khoo Chek Ngee told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Khoo, who is attending the Prime Minister's Jubilee Business Summit, said that the IPO aimed for next year is part of Orange's "very aggressive" business strategy and is meant to help recoup the sizable investment in the network.

Keith Bradley, Hutchison's representative in Israel, noted that

Orange plc of the UK made its IPO a year and half after launching operations.

Khoo said the IPO is expected to be based on company value much higher than the present worth.

At the same time, Khoo said Orange-Partner's immediate goal for the next 12 months is to ensure that the business takes off. The network made its "soft launch" earlier this month, and is to commence full operations in January.

Khoo is a recipient of a jubilee investment award for the Hong Kong-based multinational concern Hutchison Whampoa's investment in Partner Communications. Hutchison is the controlling share-

holder of Partner, with 46.7 percent of shares.

Partner paid the government \$400 million for the license, issued in February, to operate the country's first GSM network and is investing another \$600m. in establishing the network.

The other Partner owners are Matav (20.3%), Elbit Ltd. (16.5%) and Tapuz (16.5%).

Khoo said there is potential for further Hutchison investments in Israel, especially in power plants and ports. Bradley noted that Hutchison's telecommunications investment in the UK led to its investment in ports there.

Yet Khoo said Hutchison are to

expected to take a more conservative business approach in the next year due to the effects of the Asia economic crisis.

"Since Hutchison began its activities in Israel a year and a half ago," he said, "the situation in the Far East has really worsened. I think the outlook for the next six to 12 months is that there going to be no respite, perhaps even increased pressure on world currencies and stock prices, property prices, which are really a core business."

At the same time, he said Hutchison will make no change in its commitment towards Partner. "The bankers who have come forward to support us believe very strongly in the business plan that we are working on," he said.

Khoo said Hutchison would move forward for the next 12 months with a strategy "to conserve our funds, but at the same time examine possibilities around our

region where existing operations are already facing a lot of problems because of the economic turmoil."

He noted that this is a shift in focus from the aggression with which Hutchison has pursued opportunities for the last two or three years, including in Israel.

At the same time, he said Hutchison will make no change in its commitment towards Partner. "The bankers who have come forward to support us believe very strongly in the business plan that we are working on," he said.

Hutchison Telecommunications is about 20% of Hutchison Whampoa's activities, which mainly include ports and property.

P&W completes deal for \$110m. in engine parts

By STEVE RODAN

Pratt & Whitney has signed a \$110 million agreement with Beit Shemesh Engines for the supply of parts for both military and commercial jet engines manufactured by the US aerospace giant, executives said yesterday.

Under the term of the five-year agreement, Beit Shemesh will supply rotating disks, key components in the compressor and turbine of the jet engine. Beit Shemesh will supply parts for P&W's F100 military engines on the F-15 and F-16 fighters.

The company will also supply parts for the F4U, J78D, and J79D commercial aircraft engines used on the Boeing 747, 767, and 777. The engines are also used on the Airbus A300/A310 and A330.

P&W president Karl Krapek said Beit Shemesh Engines has been an important supplier to his company for more than 20 years. "We recognize the outstanding talent inside the company and their superlative delivery performance for us," he said. "This agreement will cement our relationship in many vital engine programs."

The US company has recently awarded Beit Shemesh nearly \$10 million in contracts to support P&W's F100-229 engines used on the F-151 purchased by the Israel Air Force. "Without Pratt & Whitney support and involvement, the successful privatization and turnaround of Beit Shemesh Engines would not be possible," chairman Yehuda Bronicki said.

P&W is competing against General Electric Aircraft Engines for the contract to supply the engine for the next purchase of US combat jets by the IAF in a deal that is expected to total \$2.5 billion.



Welcoming the new millennium -

A panel of experts led by Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav (third from left) discusses tourism in the year 2000 and beyond at the Prime Minister's Jubilee Summit in Jerusalem yesterday.

Gazprom: 'We're ready to supply Israel'

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Gazprom, the world's largest gas producer, is keener than ever to supply natural gas to Israel, Rem Vyakhirev, chairman of the Russian firm, said yesterday.

Attending the Prime Minister's Jubilee Business Summit in Jerusalem, Vyakhirev said the updated Israeli plan to use as much as 12 billion cubic meters of gas by 2010 means it is economically viable to purchase the gas from Russia.

Vyakhirev made his comments after having heard a report on preparations for gas imports from National Infrastructure Ministry deputy director general Eli Ronen. Vyakhirev explained he was under the impression that consumption would only reach 8 billion cu.m.-11 billion cu.m. by 2010.

Following the meeting, Vyakhirev skirted around journalists' suggestions that Israel is not prepared to consider a bid from Russia, given the country's present links with Iran.

"There may have been a political company, but we as a business



Rem Vyakhirev (Isaac Harari)

do not deal with politics," he responded.

He said a further development also makes a Russia-Israel supply route more economically viable. It was originally anticipated that Israel could receive gas via a pipeline taking the gas from western Siberia, through Ukraine, the Balkans, and Turkey, from where an undersea line could be laid to Israel.

However, Vyakhirev said the Blue Stream project, taking gas

under the Black Sea to Turkey, should be ready very soon. This, he said, would reduce the distance between the supply and Israel from 7,000 kilometers to 6,000 and would mean the pipeline would pass through fewer international boundaries.

Ronen said he is confident the government will decide on a gas supplier before the end of the year, adding that several international consortia are still in the bidding. By 2002 gas will be imported, with the entire project being handled by

the private sector, said Ronen.

He also said that the government is planning the construction of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant just south of Ashkelon. This would allow the import of both natural gas by pipeline and LNG by ship.

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 - Each call center operates in accordance with the proposed call routing modulus.
 - Each call center operates in accordance with the proposed call center operation and system operation modulus.
- Bidders must supply the names of organizations, plus the name and telephone number of a contact person in each, in order that details may be verified.
- Other minimum conditions as specified in the tender documents.**
 - A meeting of suppliers will take place on Thursday, October 29, 1998 at 10 a.m., in the Avigad building, 5 Rehov Jabotinsky, Ramat Gan. Attendance is compulsory. Please confirm participation by calling Nava Tal-Rosenblum on 03-576-3635.
 - Participation in the meeting is mandatory.
 - The tender documents are in Hebrew.
 - Bids must only be submitted in Israeli shekels.
- The tender documents may be obtained from the Purchasing Unit, 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, Sunday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The documents will be supplied on presentation of a receipt, showing payment of the amount given above.
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Enough Bronx Cheers for everyone

Everything's tougher in New York, even the fans

NEW YORK - Nothing in baseball, they like to say, is guaranteed.

Except New York. It's a tough place to play. If you can make it here, you can make it - well, you know the rest.

As New York clinched the American League pennant on Tuesday night, the Yankees Stadium fans went wild.

They were loud as usual and will be louder at Saturday night for Game 1 of the World Series.

"Yankee Stadium is a great place to play baseball," rightfielder Paul O'Neill exulted. The home team needed no help from the occult.

Remember how Deion Sanders, the jack of all sports, put it: "Satan lives here."

Chuck Knoblauch felt the heat when he came to bat after his

Game 2 gaffe - and he plays for the home team. Tuesday night, the crowd accepted him back as their own. "I had no idea how they'd respond when I ran out to stretch," he said. In the ninth inning after the first out, he looked to Tino Martinez at first base and their eyes met. Each had been a candidate for goat if the Yankees lost the series. "Our eyes met, and we each took a deep breath," Knoblauch said. "We're going to the World Series."

New York is an equal-opportunity abuser. The fans are remarkably informed. They remember what happened yesterday and they anticipate without electronic scoreboard prompting. "This is where loud was invented," said Joe Torre, who grew up here.

Fans are fans, which the

MY CALL

By Steve Jackson

ballplayers say with a certain scorn.

David Wells said he was offended by the needling of the Cleveland Indians while he was whipping the Indians in Game 5 and putting the Yankees in command of this series.

By the eighth inning of Game 6, fans were taunting the Indians with chants of "1948."

Responding to a remark by Cleveland's David Justice that the only way Yankees fans could get tougher would be if they brought Uzis to the ballpark, one fan hung pictures of a machine

gun from the upper deck for each strikeout by Cone, who fanned eight.

When Justice played leftfield in the face of the crowd, he heard the chanting, "Hal-le Ber-ry," a reminder of his rancorous public divorce from the actress with the public image. Some stuff that might be considered personal and private and out of bounds passes for common knowledge - and comment here.

"Where do you cross the line in the '90s?" asked Chili Davis, the wise man on the Yankees' bench. "We're in the '90s."

In 1977, the Los Angeles Dodgers came from la-la land where the October weather is mild and seldom is heard a discouraging word, and were driven to distraction by the hostility they per-

ceived in New York. Davey Lopes and Ron Cey and the Dodgers' infield came apart.

Dwight Gooden respects the atmosphere from both sides. He is amazed at the detail in the fans' minds here. He said it's almost like they have scouting reports on a player's private life.

"You could feel the hate," was the way Cleveland pitcher Paul Shuey described his times warming up in the bullpen.

"A lot of players are not comfortable playing in New York," said Torre, who played for and against New York and managed for and against New York. "You're human. It's tough not to feel or hear it. Acknowledging it means they got you," said Torre.

And in Yankee Stadium, they really get you. (Newsday)

Predators record first NHL win

NASHVILLE (AP) - Mike Dunham made 34 saves as the expansion Nashville Predators recorded their first win in franchise history, a 3-2 victory over the Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday.

Red Wings 3, Senators 2

Meeting the Washington Capitals for the first time since

sweeping them in the Stanley Cup finals last spring, the Detroit Red Wings once more emerged victorious with an away victory.

In other games, the Canadiens edged the Ducks 1-0, the Stars beat the Blackhawks 3-1 and the Maple Leafs topped the Oilers 3-2.

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	2	0	0	4	5	1
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	2	4	3
New Jersey	0	1	0	0	1	2
N.Y. Islanders	0	2	0	0	3	7
N.Y. Rangers	0	3	0	0	3	12

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Edmonton	2	0	0	4	8	1
Calgary	2	0	0	4	8	4
Toronto	2	0	0	4	5	3
Boston	1	0	1	3	6	3
Buffalo	1	1	0	2	4	4

Southeast Division

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	2	0	0	4	5	1
Washington	1	1	0	2	3	3
Carolina	0	1	1	1	6	7
Tampa Bay	0	1	1	1	5	8

Western Conference

Central Division

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	1	0	1	3	7	5
Chicago	1	0	2	3	4	4
Detroit	1	1	2	4	4	4
Nashville	1	1	0	2	3	3

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	1	0	1	3	8	6
Vancouver	1	0	2	4	2	2
Colorado	0	2	0	0	3	7
Edmonton	0	2	0	0	3	5

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	2	0	0	4	7	2
Los Angeles	1	1	0	2	4	5
San Jose	1	1	1	3	6	8
Phoenix	0	1	0	0	1	4
Anaheim	0	3	0	0	1	6

Holyfield-Lewis fight seems a certainty

LONDON (AP) - Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis have both given their verbal consent to put their respective title belts on the line in a long-awaited world heavyweight unification fight.

All that is required for the battle for boxing's ultimate prize to go ahead is the signatures of both fighters on a contract.

A deal for the fight was brokered by rival promoters Don King and Panos Eliades and Lewis' manager Frank Maloney in London earlier this week.

King has already said the fight will go ahead "for sure," adding that if it doesn't,

only the boxers can be to blame.

Holyfield, the WBA and IBF world heavyweight titlist, and Lewis, the WBC world champion, are tentatively scheduled to fight in February or March next year. The venue will almost certainly be Las Vegas.

Holyfield, who is expected to earn \$20 million to risk his two title belts, said he wants to be the "undisputed champion." "I wanted to fight for the right reason and the right reason has always been to be the very best and to be the undisputed champion," he said.

Eliades said Lewis would accept a \$8m

payday for the fight, noting that his earning potential would increase dramatically if he wins the winner-take-all fight.

"Lennox has always been the one to sign in the past and then with Evander for one reason or another, things have gone wrong."

In April, Holyfield declined a \$20m offer from Home Box Office cable network to fight Lewis. But the major hurdle in the past, the battle between rival American television broadcasters for the rights to the fight, was erased Monday when King agreed to screen the fight on the HBO network instead of Showtime, which screws

his regular promotions.

While King is confident there will be no obstacles to the championship bout, Eliades said it was not a done deal until both boxers signed a contract.

The deal reportedly includes a clause for a return fight if Holyfield loses. While the winner is also obliged to fight leading WBA contender Henry Akinnwande.

The promoters are billing the bout as the fight fans have been waiting to see since 1992, when heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe trashed the WBC title belt after failing to fight Lewis - then a challenger.

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Inside

Hopes for Holyfield-Lewis bout

Page 18

Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Sampras, Rafter win

VIENNA (AP) — Top-ranked Pete Sampras needed three sets to beat Jeff Tarango yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the CA Trophy ATP indoor tournament.

Sampras rallied for a 5-7, 6-1, 6-3 victory over the fellow American, a qualifier.

Patrick Rafter kept up the chase for Sampras' No. 1 ranking by beating Byron Black 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) in a first-round match.

Rafter, the US Open champion, is No. 2 and has a chance to replace Sampras as the top-ranked player in the coming weeks.

While Rafter advanced, third-seed Carlos Moya, the French Open champion, was upset by Bohdan Ullrich, 7-6 (8-6), 6-4.

Tim Henman advanced by beating Magnus Gustafsson 6-3, 6-4, and will clash with Sampras in the quarterfinals.

European Championships

Lindsay Davenport, US (1), def. Julie Halard-Decugis, France, 6-4, 6-2. Amanda Coetzer, South Africa (6), def. Ruxandra Dragomir, Romania, 6-3, 6-1. Mary Pierce, France (7), def. Joanne Kruger, South Africa, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1.

Mac Ra'anana wins in Korac Cup

Host Maccabi Ra'anana defeated Greek side Petras, 100-83, last night in Korac Cup play. The win improved Ra'anana to 1-1 in European competition this season. Mark Brisker led the victors with 28 points while Jose Waitman and Yoav Sagar added 19 and 18 respectively. Darnell Robinson paced the Greeks with 27.

(Eli Groner)

Scharf blasts Cohen for 2-1 loss

By DEREK FATTAL and OFER RONEN-ABELS

As English referee David Elleray blew for full time, the stunned looks on the faces of over some 40,000 Israeli fans embodied the painful story of last night's epic European Championship qualifying Group 6 encounter against Spain at the National Stadium Ramat Gan, that brought Israel's first home defeat in five years.

Israel's coach Shlomo Scharf was quick to point the finger at goalkeeper Rafi Cohen for the 2-1 defeat. "I don't want to blame players but two fatal errors by Rafi Cohen brought us to this situation. Rafi will not play against Cyprus and I don't know if he will play for the national side again, Scharf told reporters.

Eyal Berkovic was more generous in his appraisal of his teammate. "Rafi was to blame for one goal but not the result," the West Ham player said.

A brilliantly-crafted goal by Alon Hazan had put Israel ahead in the 64th minute, but the Spaniards came storming back to win the game through two unforgivable errors by Cohen, the first two minutes later by Fernando Hierro with substitute Joseba Etxeberria scoring the winner in the 77th minute.

The result removes the national squad from the top spot in the group as Austria cruised past San Marino with a 4-1 victory that leaves the Austrians leading the standings with seven points.

The football in the first half surpassed all superlatives as both sides fought a thrilling tactical battle, with the Spaniards guiding long threatening balls forwards while the Israelis gallantly battled towards Santiago Canizares's goal with a dazzling sharp quick passes orchestrated by Berkovic.

Until the interval Scharf's men were at least equal to the Spaniards with Hazan, Jan Talasnikov and Walid Badir performing an excellent job closing down Luis Enrique and De Pedro while bringing the ball out of defense to feed Berkovic and Avi Nimni.

Meanwhile the back line remained solid with Kiko being prevented from laying on the ball to a largely neutralized Raul.



GIVING CHASE — Eyal Berkovic races after Spain's Vicente Engonga in first-half action yesterday.

(Reuters)

Both sides had half chances with Kiko almost stealing through in the 17th minute while at the other end quick wits were needed for Rafael Alkorta to clear off the line from Revivo. After the break the tight play that characterized the first half gave way to looser marking as both defenses began to lose their grip. The crowd came alive cheering every Israeli touch, sensing that if the blue and whites did not score Spain would.

Slightly against the run of play, the Israelis caused the first fracture. A delightful skip and turn by Berkovic on the left flank released

Revivo towards the area in the 64th minute. The Celta Vigo midfielder, playing a difficult strike role against the tall Spanish defenders, chose to cross to the far side where Hazan had the luxury of targeting his shot and then releasing it viciously back into the far corner of the Spanish goal to put the hosts 1-0 ahead and in doing so send the crowd and the nation into delirium.

The pleasure was to be short-lived, however. Within two minutes, Real Madrid's Fernando Hierro had silenced the terraces guiding a 35 meter free kick past a

five-man wall and beyond the grasp of Rafi Cohen who inexcusably made no positive move towards saving. Sensing that completing the job was a matter of simple resolve, the Spaniards drove into Israeli territory causing the hosts' nerve to break.

After Hierro hit the crossbar from a corner in the 69th minute, and Kiko almost ran straight through the area, it was clear that Israel were living on borrowed time. Scharf threw Tal Banin and Alon Mizrahi in to the fray to Talasnikov and Hazan but the changes made little difference.

Spanish coach Jose Antonio Comacho was delighted after the game. "No one has won here for five years and the fact that we beat a very technical and well-organized Israeli side flatters us," he said. Barcelona's Enrique said, "We made the second half really easy for ourselves as we dominated most of the play."

GROUP 6						
	P	W	D	L	F	A
Austria	3	2	1	0	8	2
Israel	3	1	1	1	7	3
Spain	2	1	0	1	5	4
Cyprus	2	1	0	1	3	5
San Marino	2	0	0	2	1	9

Labore win for England

LUXEMBOURG (Reuters) — England labored to an unconvincing 3-0 victory against Group 5 weaklings Luxembourg in their European championship qualifier yesterday.

England, who collected just one point from their first two qualifiers against Sweden and Bulgaria, failed to impress and will need to raise their game considerably when they play Poland in their next qualifier in March.

Michael Owen netted the first from a sharp angle after Jeff Strasser clumsily lost the ball in the 19th minute and Alan Shearer converted the second from the penalty spot after Dany Theis handled in the area five minutes before the break.

But it took until injury time for Gareth Southgate to get the third as England were frustrated by the hosts' massed defense.

Luxembourg missed the chance for a dream start when Theis scored a penalty high over the bar in the sixth minute after goalkeeper David Seaman felled Marcel Christophe.

Ireland 5, Malta 0 Teenager Robbie Keane fired two goals in three first half minutes to spark Ireland to a comfortable victory and send his team to the top of its European Championship qualifying group.

The 18-year-old striker scored his first in Irish colors in the 16th minute with a left foot shot which trickled over the line from Mark Kinsella's corner. The strike before 34,000 fans at Lansdowne Road meant he became Ireland's youngest goalscorer since John Giles in 1959.

France 2, Andorra 0 World champions France wasted a string of chances as they beat international minnows Andorra. The narrow margin of the defeat for a team ranked 171 in the world will be seen as a moral victory in Andorra.

Roma right back Vincent Candela finally broke through the massed Andorran defenses in the 53rd minute to score with a low cross shot under goalkeeper Jesus 'Koldo' Alvarez from a pass by captain Didier Deschamps, playing his 80th international.

Germany 3, Moldova 1 Ulf Kirsten's two first half goals boosted a relieved Germany to a 3-1 win over Moldova.

Moldova had taken a surprise sixth-minute lead through defender Alexandru Guzun and left the Germans wondering whether they were about to face a repeat of the shock defeat suffered against Turkey on Saturday.

Scotland 2, Faroe Islands 1 Billy Dodds struck his third goal in two games as Scotland scraped to a 2-1 victory.

Dodds, who scored twice in Saturday's 3-2 win over Estonia, landed an opportunist header in first half stoppage time that turned out to be of crucial importance.

Wales 3, Belarus 2 Wales got the perfect start at Ninian Park when wingback John Robinson put them in front with a well-struck shot from 12 meters out after 14 minutes.

But the sweeper system employed by Wales manager Bobby Gould in the first half appeared to encourage Belarus to get forward and they equalized after 20 minutes through a diving header from Sergei Gureako.

Wales dug deep, however, and Chris Coleman leveled the scores with a close-range volley in the 54th minute. His Fulham teammate Kit Symons then rose to head home the winner from a Darren Barnard corner with just seven minutes left.

Ireland 5, Malta 0 Two early goals by Robbie Keane put Ireland on the road to a 5-0 defeat of Malta.

Ireland, who beat Croatia 2-0 in September, now top group eight with six points.

Robbie Keane slipped two goals past Malta goalkeeper Reginald Cini in the 16th and 19th minutes and Ireland captain Roy Keane adding to the tally early in the second half with a long drive from outside the box.



BUBBLY — Pitcher David Wells sprays champagne after the Yankees clinched a World Series berth by beating the Indians, 9-5 on Tuesday. The Series starts on Saturday in New York.

(Reuters)

Yankees win AL flag

NEW YORK (AP) — If ever a team seemed destined for a World Series, it was this one.

The 1998 New York Yankees aren't just a very good team, they are the winningest American League team ever, trying to justify their place as one of the best teams in baseball history.

Cleveland found out just how good they are Tuesday night. New York took a quick six-run lead, nearly gave it back and then disposed of the Indians, winning 9-5 to take the AL championship series 4-2, a record 35th pennant that seemed inevitable as early as May.

New York, which opens the World Series at home Saturday night against Atlanta or San Diego, won an AL title at Yankee Stadium for the first time since the Reggie Jackson-Thurman Munson-Ron Guidry team in 1978.

As soon as the game ended, thoughts turned to Darryl Strawberry and his picture went up on the scoreboard behind the right-field bleachers. The Yankees outfielder underwent colon cancer surgery earlier this month and watched the game at a hospital.

Scott Brosius seemed to finish Cleveland off with a three-run

home for a 6-0 lead in the third inning. But David Cone nearly gave it all back, allowing a grand slam to Jim Thome that pulled the Indians within a run.

Derek Jeter then restored the safety margin with a two-run triple in the sixth, a drive to right that

by left fielder Brian Giles — the first of three by the Indians — allowed another run to score in the second following Knoblauch's double.

Cone took a shutout into the fifth. After a liner by Vizquel struck Hendry in the rear end — keeping Kenny Lofton on third base — Cone forced in a run by walking Justice and gave up the grand slam to Thome, whose four homers in the series set an ALCS record.

After Mendoza, Mariano Rivera finished with a 1-2-3 ninth. Last year's loss was history. All that's left is a 24th World Series title.

Yankee Stadium faithful, Page 18

Manny Ramirez tried to snag with a leap at the top of the wall — only the ball landed on a hop at his feet.

After Thome's grand slam pulled Cleveland to 6-5, Ramiro Mendoza blanked Cleveland for three innings, allowing just one hit.

Indians shortstop Omar Vizquel, who has won five straight Gold Gloves, opened the way to the three-run seventh by making a throwing error. Only once during the regular season had the Indians allowed as many as five unearned runs.

New York took a 2-0 lead in the first against Charles Nagy on Bernie Williams' RBI single and Chili Davis' sacrifice fly. An error

by left fielder Brian Giles — the first of three by the Indians — allowed another run to score in the second following Knoblauch's double.

Cone took a shutout into the fifth. After a liner by Vizquel struck Hendry in the rear end — keeping Kenny Lofton on third base — Cone forced in a run by walking Justice and gave up the grand slam to Thome, whose four homers in the series set an ALCS record.

After Mendoza, Mariano Rivera finished with a 1-2-3 ninth. Last year's loss was history. All that's left is a 24th World Series title.

Game 6
Cleveland 000 050 000-5 8 3
New York 213 003 000-9 11 1
Nagy, Garza (4), Poole (5), Shuey (6), Anderson (6) and S. Alomar, B. Des (6); Cone, R. Mendoza (6), M. Rivera (6) and Grand; W-Cone, 1-0, L-Nagy, 0-1, HRe-Cleveland, Thome (4), New York, Brosius (1).

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES	
American League	National League
New York wins series 4-3	San Diego leads series 3-2
San Diego leads series 3-2	Last night: San Diego (Hickcock 9-7) at Atlanta (Gleaves 20-7)
Today: San Diego at Atlanta, 8 p.m.	Today: San Diego at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
WORLD SERIES	
Saturday: NL at New York	

GROUP 1

Wales 3 Belarus 2

GROUP 2

Norway 2, Albania 2

Slovenia 1 Latvia 0

GROUP 3

Finland 3, Turkey 1

GROUP 4

France 2 Andorra 0

Ukraine 2, Armenia 0

Ireland 1 Russia 0

GROUP 5

Hungary 1 Romania 1

Liechtenstein 2, Azerbaijan 1

GROUP 6

Czech Republic 4, Estonia 1

Lithuania 4 Bosnia 2

Scotland 2 Faroe Islands 1

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Haifa 29/21
Netanya 29/21
Tel Aviv 30/21
Jerusalem 29/16
Dead Sea 39/24
Beersheva 31/18

Israel: Not as hot today with sun, shine, patchy clouds and locally gusty winds. Highs 29-29. Cooler tomorrow.

Eilat 39/25

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF
Ariel	30/21	19/6/16	29/22	17/6/12	29/22	17/6/12	30/22	19/6/16
Beersheva	31/18	19/6/16	29/22	16/6/11	29/22	16/6/11	30/22	19/6/16
Dead Sea	39/24	24/7/19	39/24	20/6/15	39/24	20/6/15	39/24	20/6/15
Eilat	39/24	27/17/12	39/24	21/7/12	39/24	21/7/12	39/24	21/7/12
Haifa	29/21	19/6/16	29/21	19/6/16	29/21	19/6/16	29/21	19/6/16
Jerusalem	29/16	18/6/13	27/18	14/5/7	27/18	14/5/7	29/16	18/6/13
Katzi	31/18	19/6/16	27/18	14/5/7	27/18	14/5/7	29/16	18/6/13
Netanya	29/21	19/6/16	27/18	14/5/7	27/18	14/5/7	29/16	18/6/13
Ramat Gan	29/21	19/6/16	27/18	14/5/7	27/18	14/5/7	29/16	18/6/13
Tel Aviv	30/21	20/6/15	27/18	14/5/7	27/18	14/5/7	29/16	18/6/13
Tiberias	31/18	19/6/16	29/22	16/6/11	29/22	16/6/11	30/22	19/6/16

Weather (W): a=sunny, p=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=snow, h=heavy rain, r=rain, s=snow flurries, an=snow, ice.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF
Amsterdam	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5
Antwerp	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5
Berlin	13/5/8	5/1/0	13/5/8	5/1/0	13/5/8	5/1/0	13/5/8	5/1/0
Brussels	12/5/7	6/4/0	12/5/7	6/4/0	12/5/7	6/4/0	12/5/7	6/4/0
Cairo	29/18	21/7/12	29/18	19/6/14	29/18	19/6/14	29/18	19/6/14
Chicago	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7
Copenhagen	12/5/7	5/1/0	12/5/7	5/1/0	12/5/7	5/1/0	12/5/7	5/1/0
Hong Kong	29/18	21/7/12	29/18	19/6/14	29/18	19/6/14	29/18	19/6/14
Los Angeles	24/7/12	12/5/7	24/7/12	12/5/7	24/7/12	12/5/7	24/7/12	12/5/7
Madrid	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7
Mexico City	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5
Moscow	11/5/2	5/1/0	11/5/2	5/1/0	11/5/2	5/1/0	11/5/2	5/1/0
New York	17/6/12	10/5/5	17/6/12	10/5/5	17/6/12	10/5/5	17/6/12	10/5/5
Paris	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5	16/5/11	10/5/5
Rio de Janeiro	29/18	21/7/12	29/18	19/6/14	29/18	19/6/14	29/18	19/6/14
Rome	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7
Sydney	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7
Tokyo	24/7/12	12/5/7	24/7/12	12/5/7	24/7/12	12/5/7	24/7/12	12/5/7
Toronto	14/5/7	6/4/0	14/5/7	6/4/0	14/5/7	6/4/0	14/5/7	6/4/0
Vienna	14/5/7	6/4/0	14/5/7	6/4/0	14/5/7	6/4/0	14/5/7	6/4/0
Washington	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7	20/7/12	12/5/7
Zurich	12/5/7	5/1/0	12/5/7	5/1/0	12/5/7	5/1/0	12/5/7	5/1/0